BENGALURU, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 25 | Min 18 | Humidity 90% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 85,706 | Nifty 26,202 | Gold 1,28,460 | Silver 1,76,000 | ...o 104.02 | GBP 118.26

CITY / PAGE 3

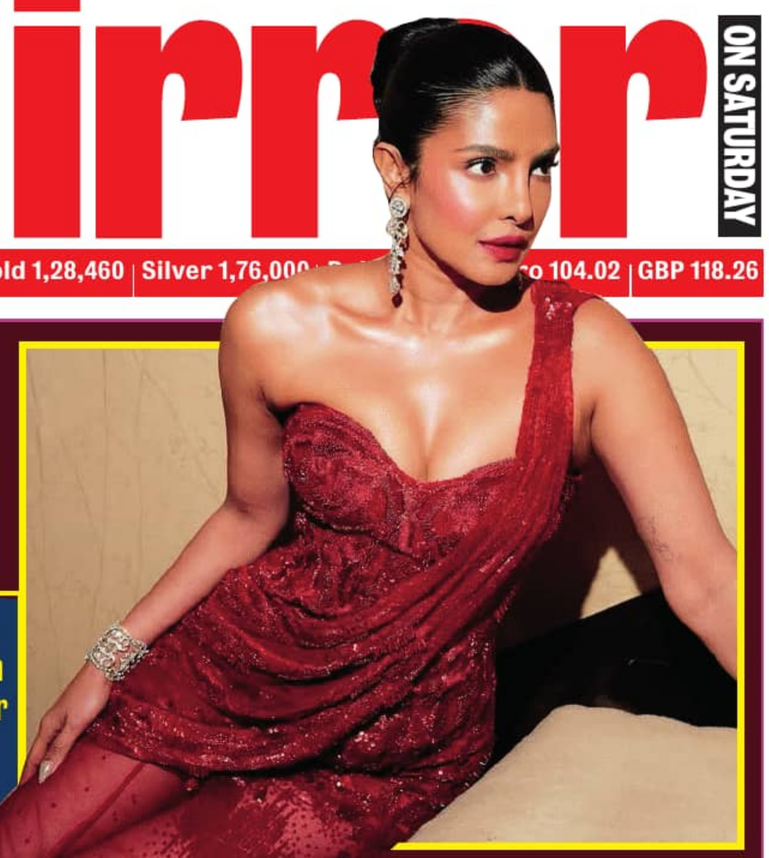
FIRE HAZARD

What ails our high-rises: Illegal floor additions, narrow staircases, blocked terraces, and mixed-use occupancy residences are just some of the issues

FILM / PAGE 16

FORGE A PATH

Priyanka Chopra reveals how she navigated her way through Hollywood and made a place for herself, even using trial and error methods at times



Spate of crimes such as robbery and sexual harassment inside paying guest facilities creates alarm as police warn loosely regulated establishments that don't maintain records making identifying culprits difficult

ROOMS WITH A GRIM VIEW

DCPs, ACPs under each division creating awareness among PG owners about safety concerns

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's paying guest (PG) accommodations are once again under the scanner following a spate of crimes targeting young residents. From August to November 2025, the city has witnessed a series several serious incidents of robbery, sexual harassment, and assault inside PGs, raising alarm among students and working professionals who rely on these shared spaces for affordable housing.

Senior police officials revealed that many recent robberies reported in the city were linked to loosely regulated PGs that did not maintain proper tenant records, making it difficult to identify suspects or trace stolen property. In some cases, intruders gained easy access due to poor security infrastructure.

According to the City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh, incidents of such crimes have reduced compared to previous years, but the core problem lies in the lack of basic security practices in many PG and rented accommodations. "Residents often leave doors open at night or during the day, mainly because people

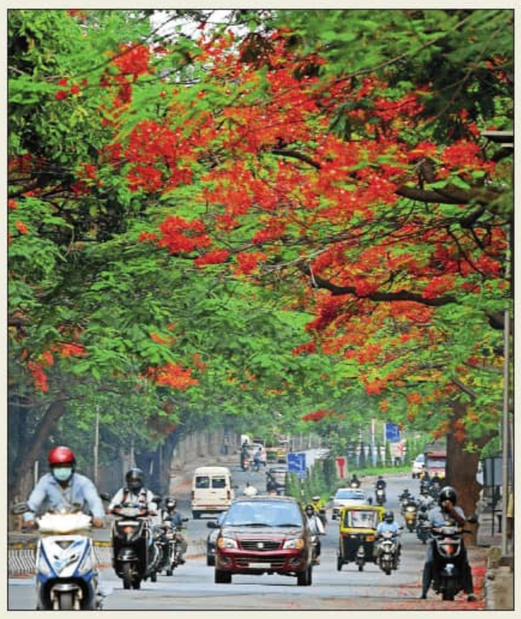
CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

"PGs must install biometric entry systems, functional CCTV cameras, and employ trained security guards who remain alert. Residents, too must refrain from allowing unknown friends or guests inside without informing the management

—Arun Kumar, PG association president

All eyes on the canopy



Proposal to triple forest official strength to look after city trees welcome, but how it is implemented will make all the difference

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Greater Bengaluru Authority is considering tripling its forest official strength to meet the city's requirements.

In a new staff proposal prepared, a staff strength of 55 across all corporations' levels has been requested. This includes five assistant conservators of forest, two range forest officers, and four deputy range forest officers at each corporation level. This has been proposed against the existing staff strength of 16, including 10 deputy range forest officers, three range forest officers, two assistant conservators of forest, and one deputy conservator.

"The proposal is subject to revision and needs approvals at various levels before being implemented. However, looking at the current requirement of Bengaluru, this is the minimum number of staffers needed and a good

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Blooming ideas

Green Literature Festival, a vibrant platform dedicated to identifying, celebrating and promoting books, writing, conversations and various other cultural expressions on the environment, is back for its 5th edition. **Where: Century Club, Cubbon Park; When: November 29, 9.30 am**

02 Tell tale

Atta Galatta is hosting 'Epics with Arshia and Aparna', a unique session designed to make the timeless tales of the Ramayana and Mahabharata both educational and thrilling for young audiences. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: November 29, 4 pm**

03 Strike a chord

Alessio Menconi, one of world's most celebrated jazz guitarists, will perform live with his Organ Trio. The trio features Alberto Gurrisi on Hammond organ and Alessandro Minetto on drums, delivering performances that combine virtuosity, improvisation, and rhythm with effortless grace. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: Nov 28 and 29, 9.30 pm**

04 Amp it up

Phoenix Mall of Asia is presenting a blockbuster evening featuring DJ Nikhil Chinappa along with Roadies icons Rannvijay Singh, Prince Narula, Rajiv Lakshman, Priyank Sharma and Arun Sharma, creating a high-energy, celebrity-powered atmosphere. **Where: Dobaraa–Gastropub, 3rd floor, Phoenix Mall of Asia; When: Nov 29, 8 pm**

05 Musical evening

The South Asian Symphony Orchestra returns to Bengaluru for an unforgettable evening built around one of humanity's most powerful musical statements—Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—with over 120 musicians on stage. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: November 29, 7 pm**

Researchers find rare mutation that causes neurological decline in kids

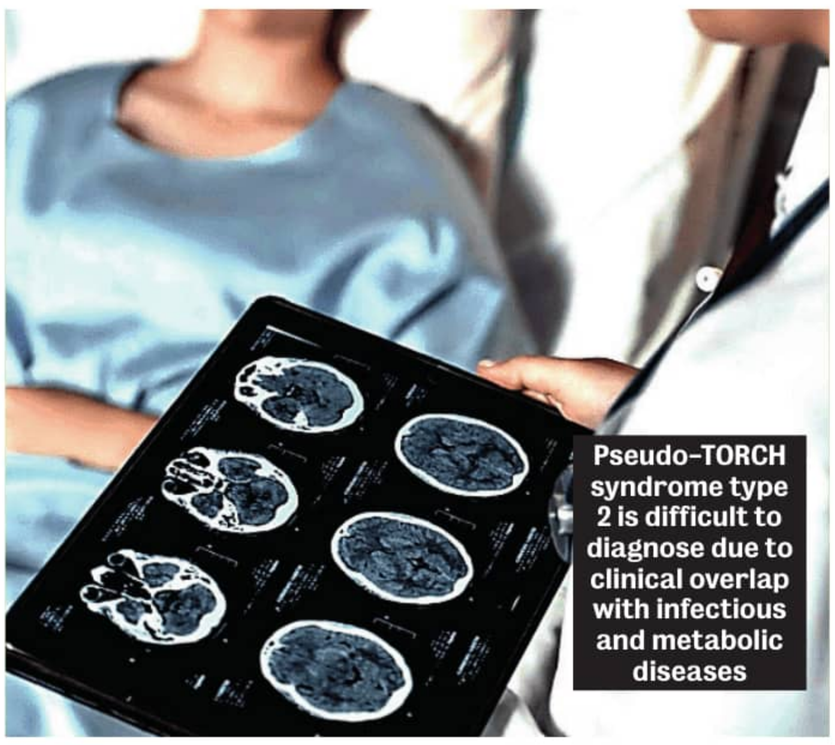
Child shows multiple early-onset unusual symptoms but infection tests turn out negative prompting medical team to suspect genetic disorder; advanced testing confirms rare neurological condition

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

An 11-year-old girl from Bengaluru, who has battled unexplained neurological crises since infancy, has led doctors to a major scientific breakthrough. Beginning at just eight months old, she suffered recurrent episodes of fever-induced unconsciousness, seizures, delayed development, and progressive brain calcification symptoms that baffled specialists for years. Now, her case has helped uncover a previously unknown mutation in the USP18 gene, marking a significant advancement in understanding one of the world's rarest neurological disorders. So far only 11 such cases have been reported worldwide, with this being the first in India.

The discovery, published in Clinical Dysmorphology, identifies a new variant c.358C>T (p.Pro120Ser) linked to Pseudo-TORCH syndrome type 2, a condition notoriously difficult to diagnose due to its clinical overlap with infectious and metabolic diseases. History also showcased that the 11-year-old girl was born to a third-degree consanguineous couple and had a family history of a deceased elder male sibling who died at 8 months of age following a febrile illness.

This breakthrough was made possible through collaborative clinical efforts led by Dr Himani Pandey, Lab Head, Genomics at Redcliffe Labs, and Dr Vykuntaraju K Gowda from the Department of Paediatric Neurology at Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH), Bengaluru.



Pseudo-TORCH syndrome type 2 is difficult to diagnose due to clinical overlap with infectious and metabolic diseases

Speaking of Pseudo-TORCH syndrome, Dr Pandey pointed out that it is a very rare genetic condition that looks similar to infections seen in newborns (like TORCH infections), but no actual infection is present. She explained that it affects how the immune system behaves during early development. "Because of this, the baby's body shows signs like, calcification in the brain, seizures, developmental delays, growth challenges. In simple terms, the body triggers an abnormal immune response inside the brain before birth, which affects brain growth and function," she said.

Initially, the child showed multiple early-onset symptoms that did not match any typical infection pattern, such as persistent seizures, microcephaly (smaller head size), brain calcification and severe developmental delay. "Since infection tests were negative and the symptom pattern was unusual, our team suspected a rare genetic disorder, prompting advanced testing, including exome sequencing," Dr Pandey disclosed.

Doctors confirm rare gene mutation in child which causes changes in how immune system behaves during early development

Since the disorder is autosomal recessive, it can occur when both parents carry the same altered gene. Consanguinity increases this possibility because both parents may share the same ancestral genetic variant.

Since Pseudo-TORCH type 2 is extremely rare, the focus is on personalised, supportive care that reduces complications and improves day-to-day functioning. Dr Pandey said the child continues to receive multidisciplinary supportive care, focused on stabilising her neurological symptoms and improving overall development. The treatment also involves use of immunomodulatory approach using the JAK inhibitor Baricitinib, which has shown promising results. "Since starting Baricitinib, we have not seen a recurrence of encephalopathy in this case, which is an encouraging outcome," Dr Pandey noted.

Unfortunately, there is no specific cure for this rare condition anywhere in the world. However, supportive therapies can significantly help manage symptoms.

Dr Vykuntaraju K Gowda, Department of Paediatric Neurology, Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH) said that the discovery reinforces the power of clinical intuition backed by advanced genetic testing. "For years, we treated symptoms without a definitive answer, but identifying this novel USP18 mutation has transformed not just the diagnosis, but the child's future," said Dr Gowda, adding that it helps avoid unnecessary treatments, provide precise therapy, and most importantly, guide families through informed genetic counselling.

Only 97% of Indira Canteens serve Bengaluru's workers; mobile units 100% idle

Indira Canteens, launched during Siddaramaiah's first term to provide affordable meals to daily wage workers, auto drivers, and street vendors, continue to underperform under Siddaramaiah 2.0. Despite new contracts and tenders, only 169 out of 175 physical canteens (97 per cent) are fully operational, while all 23 mobile canteens (100 per cent) remain inactive. Persistent challenges such as inadequate kitchens, poor infrastructure, and unpaid Cauvery Water Board bills—forcing reliance on water tankers—have limited services and kept footfall low.

Operations vary across Bengaluru's five municipal zones: Bengaluru West has 36 canteens run by Shashi Catering Services at a Rs 35 meal subsidy, and 140 canteens managed by the Rewards Foundation at Rs 30 per meal. Of the 52 new canteens planned, only one at Kempegowda International Airport is functional; the remaining 51 (98 per cent) are stalled. While marshals monitor food quality and prevent misuse, residents report little improvement in taste or variety, keeping evening and nighttime customers in single digits. Under the new Greater Bengaluru administration with 369 wards, local bodies will decide on further expansions to ensure food reaches the city's most vulnerable residents. **— BMB**

50% rebate drives massive clearance of pending traffic fines

The Karnataka government's decision to offer a 50 per cent concession on fines for pending traffic e-challans has triggered a significant rise in settlements across the state. The rebate, which came into effect on November 21, resulted in a revenue collection of Rs 7,02,45,800, indicating strong public response. Within the first week of implementation from November 21 to November 28 authorities recorded the settlement of 2,47,777 pending cases. The concession applies to traffic violations recorded between 1991–92 and 2019–20 and will remain available until December 12, 2025. Citizens with pending challans are being urged to utilise the window before penalties return to full rates. This move follows similar rebate periods announced in February, March and July 2023, though those concessions applied only to cases registered prior to February 11, 2023. The latest concession was introduced after the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority appealed for relief on decades-old outstanding cases, prompting the Transport Commissioner to recommend a new settlement period. **— BMB**

B'luru Police to visit 1,000 educational institutions in awareness drive

In an outreach initiative, Bengaluru City Police will visit over 1,000 schools and colleges on December 1, 2025, to engage with students and promote awareness on safety, crime prevention, and responsible citizenship. Around 750 officers are scheduled to address nearly 2.5 lakh students across the city.

The campaign focuses on five key areas: women's safety, anti-narcotics action, traffic discipline, cybercrime prevention, and accessible reporting mechanisms. Police will brief students on strengthened measures for women's safety, including the 1090 helpline, enhanced Hoysala patrolling, Safety Islands, and digital support features available.

To curb rising narcotics misuse among youth, officers will demonstrate how students can anonymously report drug activity through the Drug-Free Karnataka app and the 1933 national helpline. Road safety awareness will be reinforced through demonstrations on emergency response, reporting via the Astram app, and accident prevention. Officials will also guide students on secure online practices and reporting financial frauds. **— BMB**

Weddings at Halasuru temple stopped due to surge in divorce cases

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The Halasuru Someshwara Swamy Temple, believed to be one of Bengaluru's oldest Shiva temples, has long been a popular venue for traditional Hindu marriages. The temple administration has now clarified that it stopped conducting weddings nearly six to seven years ago after repeated legal complications arising from divorces filed by couples who were married there.

The clarification comes after growing confusion among devotees and the public, who were unsure as to why the centuries-old temple had discontinued the practice of hosting marriages. In a formal communication to the Chief Minister's Special Duty Officer, the temple's executive officer stated that the decision was taken to avoid inconvenience to priests who were frequently summoned to court as witnesses during divorce proceedings.

Officials say there are no plans to resume weddings at temple

According to temple authorities, several couples who married at the Someshwara Swamy Temple had approached family courts in recent years seeking separation. During hearings, judges routinely directed priests who solemnised the weddings to appear and confirm procedural details as witnesses. This repeated legal involvement left the priests distressed and reluctant to continue performing marriage rituals.

Faced with increasing pressure and fearing unnecessary controversy, the temple management made the decision to permanently discontinue marriage services. The recent notice explains that the step was taken not only to protect the priests from legal burden but also to prevent negative publicity surrounding the temple. Despite halting weddings, all other religious rituals and services at the temple continue as usual. However, officials say there are no plans to resume wedding ceremonies in the near future.

Hong Kong blaze rings alarm bells for B'luru high-rises

Experts say Bengaluru faces similar risks of fire incidents in many high-rises and older structures, highlighting need for enforcement of safety measures

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The deadly fire in Hong Kong highlights how flammable scaffolding, plastic sheeting, and facade materials can accelerate a blaze. Limited sprinkler coverage, poorly protected escape routes, and restricted access for fire crews worsened casualties, demonstrating that fire disasters often arise from design and material failures rather than building height alone.

Bengaluru's vulnerabilities

Experts said that Bengaluru faces similar risks in many high-rises and older structures. Illegal floor additions, narrow staircases, blocked terraces, and mixed-use occupancy residences stacked with shops, storage spaces, LPG cylinders, and wiring worsen the fire hazards. Congested streets, vendor stalls, parked vehicles, and overhead wires often hinder emergency vehicle access. A large number of older apartments and commercial-residential complexes lack smoke detectors, sprinklers, and fire-rated doors, leaving residents exposed in emergencies.

Policy shifts needed

KK Deshmukh, an urban designer, said that there is a need for a proactive approach: treating renovation sites as high-risk zones, mandating fire NOCs for scaffolding or facade work, restricting flammable exterior materials, and using fire-retardant scaffolding nets. "Escape routes, terraces, and windows must remain accessible, while retrofitting sprinklers and alarms in older high-rises, guest houses, and commercial-residential buildings is critical. Staircases should remain clear, grilles unlocked, and evacuation paths clearly marked," said Deshmukh.

Fire safety measures are crucial to Bengaluru's rapidly growing high-rise landscape

Large number of older apartments and buildings in city lack essential fire safety design elements, creating potential hazard in case of emergencies

On-the-ground measures

G Jagadish, an architect, said that authorities must map 'red-zone' buildings such as markets, guesthouse clusters, and coaching hubs, conduct surprise inspections during peak occupancy, and enforce occupancy limits when necessary. Jagadish said that fire response should include mini fire tenders and bike units for congested lanes, installation of external hydrants and standpipes, and incentives for buildings adopting safety measures like sprinklers and fire-rated doors. "Training RWAs, guards, and staff in first-response firefighting, conducting realistic evacuation drills, and using smoke sensors, drones, and cameras for rapid situational awareness are essential steps," noted Jagadish.

Caution for residents

Experts said that the Hong Kong blaze underlines a critical point for Bengaluru: fire risk is dictated by materials, design, and accessibility, not just building height. Tenants and residents must demand visible safety measures, while authorities need to ensure strict enforcement and accountability to prevent tragedies in the city's rapidly growing high-rise landscape.

Bangalore Mirror

62% of Bengaluru's high-rises lack fire-safety clearance — which means two out of every three buildings are ill-equipped to handle emergency, putting lives of lakhs of residents, office-goers and shoppers in jeopardy

TOWERS OF INFERNO

Around 12% of state's buildings lack even initial NOC despite being fully occupied

BM published a story November 24, highlighting B'luru's fire safety crisis

Accidents in 2025 inching towards last year's levels

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bengaluru has recorded 3,985 accidents till October 30, 2025—already just 16.8 per cent lower than the full-year figure of 2024 (4,769), a difference of 784 cases. With the year still winding down, the city is poised to either match or approach last year's totals, signalling that road risk levels remain persistently high despite interventions. While deaths and injuries have declined noticeably, the accident count itself shows that the underlying pressure on traffic safety remains unresolved and continues at a pace similar to 2023–24 peaks.

Long-term trends

From 2020 to 2021, accident numbers dipped slightly by 0.7 per cent (3,236 to 3,213), though deaths rose by 1 per cent (647 to 654) and injuries by 2.2 per cent (2,760 to 2,820). This mild fluctuation set the stage for a dramatic surge beginning in 2022, when accidents climbed by 18.9 per cent to 3,822—an increase of 609 cases over the previous year. Fatalities increased by 18 per cent (654 to 772), and injuries rose 13.1 per cent (2,820 to 3,189), marking a clear shift towards more severe traffic outcomes. The situation intensified sharply in 2023, which saw a 30.1 per cent spike in accidents—rising from 3,822 to 4,974, a jump of 1,152 cases. Deaths rose by 17.9 per cent (772 to 910), while injuries recorded the highest surge in the period—a 31.4 per cent increase, adding 1,002 additional cases.

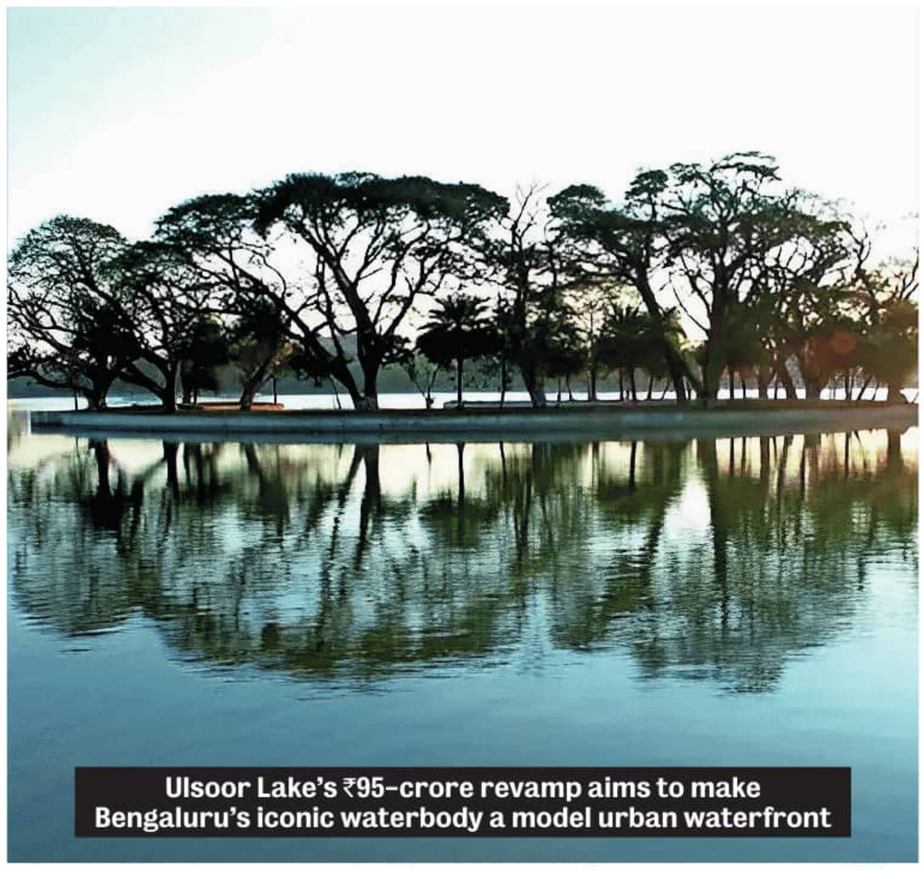
In 2024, Bengaluru recorded 4,769 accidents, a 4.1 per cent decrease from 2023 (205 fewer cases). Fatalities also reduced by 1.7 per cent, falling from 910 to 894, while injuries dropped by 4 per cent (169 fewer).

By October 30, 2025, the city recorded 715 deaths, a 20 per cent decline from 2024 (a reduction of 179 fatalities). Injuries totalled 3,480, marking a 13.5 per cent drop (542 fewer cases) compared with last year. Police officials said that these reductions indicate that despite a high number of crashes, the severity of road incidents may be easing—potentially due to faster trauma care, safer vehicles, or stronger enforcement at critical junctions. However, Bengaluru is still tracking at historically high levels and could end 2025 close to last year's totals, keeping overall risk substantially above 2020–2022 levels.

Massive restoration turning Ulsoor lake into city showcase

Large-scale Ulsoor Lake rejuvenation enabling clean-water systems, resilient embankments, enhanced public edges, cultural terraces, pedestrian networks, and revitalised neighbourhood engagement spaces

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR



Ulsoor Lake's ₹95-crore revamp aims to make Bengaluru's iconic waterbody a model urban waterfront

Ulsoor Lake is undergoing a massive ₹90-crore-plus restoration and makeover, with authorities aiming to transform it into one of Bengaluru's most beautiful and vibrant public destinations. The project focuses on improving water quality, upgrading lake infrastructure, and creating thoughtfully designed recreational spaces. Plans include expansive play areas for children, stronger embankments, a multi-level walkway, the revival of the iconic island, and a new hanging bridge to enhance connectivity. The comprehensive redevelopment seeks to restore the lake's ecological health while turning it into a lively cultural and community hub.

MLA Rizwan Arshad, who has been regularly inspecting the ongoing restoration work, said the project aims at a complete and long-overdue redevelopment. He noted that the lake's condition has deteriorated significantly over the past few decades. "We are looking at making it the most beautiful lake of the city, with a climate-resilient urban waterfront that honours Bengaluru's legacy, strengthens community connections, nurtures local biodiversity, and enriches urban living through inclusive public spaces and sustainable water systems."

He added that redevelopment was essential because the lake had not been desilted for 25 years, leading to a major decline in storage capacity. The plan includes proper fencing around the entire lake, along with beautification and infrastructure upgrades. About ₹30 crore worth of tenders have already been sanctioned by the Central City Corporation under the larger ₹95-crore project. Funds are being released in phases, and the design has been prepared in collaboration with the Prestige Group. Currently, around 20% of the work is complete, and the project is expected to take another year. Additional allocations include ₹40 crore from Minor Irrigation, with the remaining funding supported by the Central City Corporation. He described the redevelopment as an excellent design for one of the country's finest lakes.

The revitalisation follows design guidelines intended to create a contemporary, accessible, and ecologically sensitive public space. All existing trees will be preserved and integrated, while the reservoir, bridge, and related infrastructure will be upgraded without reducing water-holding capacity. Universal accessibility will shape the design of walkways, decks, and gathering areas through ramps, tactile paths, and inclusive amenities.

As per the plan, soft, porous materials such as stone and timber will replace concrete, and wider shaded walkways with seating will encourage walking and cycling. The kund area will be activated as a cultural zone with terraces, lighting, and performance spaces. Edges will be redesigned for safe public access, supported by gabion walls. A semi-circular OAT, a high-rise viewing deck, and minimal-impact boardwalks near preserved islands will enhance engagement. Water will be naturally cleansed through terraced wetlands and bioswales, while murals and public art will celebrate local culture.

> **"It was important to carry out redevelopment of the lake as the lake hasn't been desilted for the last 25 years, resulting in a significant drop in storage capacity**
> – Rizwan Arshad, MLA

The proposed idol immersion tank will transform the existing facility into a multifunctional public space with terraced seating, a pavilion with amenities, and durable hardscaped areas for heavy footfall and machinery.

A Harbour Deck—an elevated timber platform—will offer panoramic views of the lake, islands, and greenery. Designed as a floating structure, it will serve as a versatile space for yoga, talks, and quiet reflection. "We've waited decades to see the lake restored. I hope this transformation makes Ulsoor Lake a true 'Great Lake' for the city," said Abu S, a resident of Ulsoor.

Property mutation delays trigger HC intervention

The Karnataka High Court has directed the Registration & Stamps Department and the Revenue Department to update the ongoing Kaveri 2.0 system by incorporating a new operational category titled "Mutation-Based Civil Court Decree." The directive was issued while hearing a petition filed by five residents of Narikombu village in Bantwal, who sought khata transfer based on a compromise decree approved by the Dakshina Kannada District Sessions Court.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum observed that the software currently supports processes such as sale deeds, gift deeds, mortgages, and ancestral property transactions but lacks any mechanism to handle civil court judgments that conclusively determine property rights. This absence, the court noted, compels citizens to obtain several approvals and certifications even after matters have been fully resolved through judicial intervention. Emphasising the need for better coordination between judicial directions and administrative implementation, the court instructed that the legal and digital frameworks be revised with support from the Centre for Smart Governance. It added that the existing structure causes avoidable confusion and therefore requires urgent modification.

— BMB

Water contamination allegations after boy's death

An eight-year-old boy residing at Prestige Falcon City apartment off Kanakapura Road in Bengaluru South died of alleged water contamination on Thursday, three days after being admitted to a hospital for treatment. A resident of Prestige Falcon City apartment posted a message on social media alerting authorities about the water contamination crisis, stating that one child had died and many residents were sick.

"For the last two months, residents across multiple buildings have been continuously falling sick. Common symptoms include high fever, severe diarrhea, stomach ache, vomiting, and fatigue. Almost every household I know has at least one or more family members sick. Some residents are getting sick repeatedly even after recovering," the message read. The resident added that the situation is so severe that nearby hospitals are full. Many cases reportedly originate from Prestige Falcon City, with more than 500 residents unofficially reported sick, and a few even admitted to the ICU, according to resident WhatsApp groups and MyGate updates.

"For weeks, residents repeatedly raised concerns about water contamination. The association claimed the water was tested and declared clean, even citing BBMP involvement, yet no reports were made public. Residents have since been buying Bisleri water for drinking, cooking, and brushing. To make matters worse, recent stool tests from multiple residents have identified dangerous pathogens like EPEC (Enteropathogenic E. coli), Rotavirus A, Sapovirus, Cryptosporidium, and Salmonella. Cryptosporidium is especially alarming—it is a parasite known to cause severe outbreaks and is resistant to chlorination. If confirmed as widespread, this is not just a society-level issue, it could be a major health alert," the message added.

Meanwhile, a resident stated that GBA authorities, including Bengaluru South City Corporation officials, were scheduled to visit Prestige Falcon City on Friday evening but did not turn up.

— BMB

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Cattle menace

Cunningham Road

Pedestrians on Cunningham Road claim they are forced to walk on the carriageway because stray cattle have occupied the footpath.

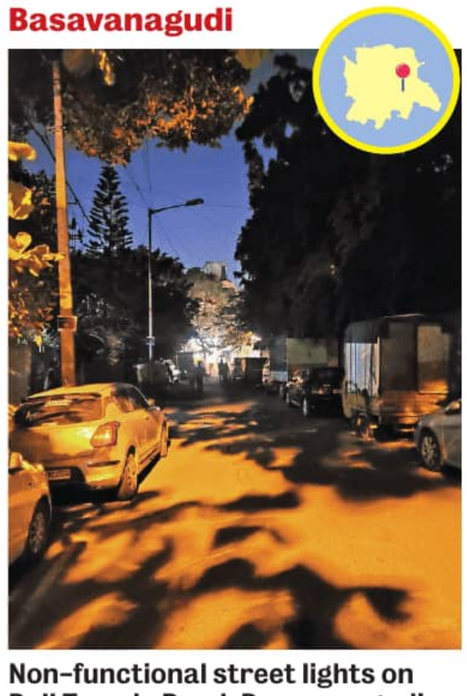
Road obstruction

Lingarajapuram

Trimmed tree branches have been lying for 3–4 days in Lingarajapuram, blocking the footpath and disrupting traffic near the main bus stop.

Dark streets

Basavanagudi



Non-functional street lights on Bull Temple Road, Basavanagudi, are posing safety risks to women and elderly pedestrians.

Bengaluru North: The new realty magnet

From Hebbal to Yelahanka and Nagawara to Devanahalli, northern corridor has been buzzing

Bengaluru North is fast turning into the epicentre of the city's real estate boom, attracting developers and homebuyers alike. From Hebbal to Yelahanka, and Nagawara to Devanahalli, the northern corridor has seen a surge in residential and commercial projects over the past two years. Analysts say the combination of improved infrastructure, proximity to IT hubs, and better connectivity is driving this growth. "The northern belt of Bengaluru is witnessing unprecedented demand," says Ramesh B, senior real estate consultant. "With several metro extensions underway and key IT companies expanding operations, North Bengaluru has become the preferred destination for both investors and end-users."

Infrastructure driving growth

The growth story of Bengaluru North is closely linked to its rapidly improving infrastructure. The expansion of the Outer Ring Road, the upcoming peripheral expressway, and improved airport connectivity have made commuting easier, attracting high-income professionals and families looking for modern residential options. "Accessibility is a key factor. Areas like Hebbal and Yelahanka are now within easy reach of IT parks and the airport," notes Sneha Reddy, a real estate analyst. "Developers are capitalising on this by launching premium apartments and integrated townships, that are seeing sales."

Residential and commercial boom

Residential projects in North Bengaluru are witnessing brisk sales, with developers reporting occupancy rates of over 70% in many new launches. Premium apartments, villas, and gated communities are on the rise, catering to the city's growing affluent population. Commercial real estate is also seeing a surge, with several IT and business parks being developed to cater to the expanding workforce. Experts say this dual growth in residential and commercial space is what makes North Bengaluru attractive.

Investor interest skyrockets

Investors are showing keen interest in North Bengaluru, with property prices appreciating steadily. Data from real estate portals show that property values in areas like Hebbal, Yelahanka, and Devanahalli have risen by 15–20% over the past 18 months. "Investors are looking at North Bengaluru as a long-term growth market," says Anil K, a realtor. "The combination of infrastructure development, rising employment opportunities, and lifestyle projects makes it one of the most promising zones in the city." **–Prakash VL**

BM Property
Every Saturday
Contact for advertisement
Mahesh Malagi
9886721857

B'luru tops India in mid-segment price growth

India's luxury housing market has registered the strongest growth among all budget categories over the last three years, with Bengaluru cementing its place as one of the country's most resilient and fast-rising property hubs. According to ANAROCK Research, luxury homes priced above ₹1.5 crore in the top seven metros appreciated an average 40% between 2022 and 2025. Bengaluru recorded a sharp 42% jump in this segment, with average prices rising from ₹11,760 per sq. ft. in 2022 to ₹16,700 per sq. ft. this year. Only NCR (72%) and Mumbai Metropolitan Region (43%) grew faster, as luxury rates across major markets climbed from ₹14,530 per sq. ft. in 2022 to nearly ₹20,300 per sq. ft. in 2025. The trend highlights a decisive shift toward bigger, premium homes as urban homebuyers upgrade lifestyles post-pandemic.

Demand shifts upwards

While luxury homes surged, the affordable category—priced below ₹40 lakh—saw a much slower trajectory, with just a 26% rise across metros. Average rates in this segment moved from ₹4,220 to ₹5,299 per sq. ft. in three years. Even so, NCR outpaced other cities with 48% appreciation, followed by Hyderabad at 35%. In Bengaluru, affordable homes saw a 30% rise, reflecting relatively muted buyer sentiment and shrinking supply in core areas. Analysts say that with rising construction costs and limited developer interest, the segment continues to struggle for momentum. This divergence widens the performance gap between the lower and upper ends of the housing spectrum.

Premium homes

The mid- and premium category—homes priced between ₹40 lakh and ₹1.5 crore—recorded a 39% price rise nationwide, but Bengaluru far outshone all other metros with an extraordinary 62% surge. The city's tech-driven economy, strong white-collar migration and expanding startup wealth ecosystem have pushed up demand for spacious, well-amenitised homes. ANAROCK data shows mid-segment prices in Bengaluru rising to an average of ₹9,140 per sq. ft. in 2025. Industry experts say this growth reflects stable buyer confidence and developers' focus on high-quality projects from established brands.

Price gains

Overall, NCR stood out as the country's strongest-performing market, notching up the highest appreciation in luxury (72%), mid-premium (54%) and affordable housing (48%). Analysts attribute this to renewed infrastructure momentum, increased project deliveries and a revived appetite for large gated communities. Meanwhile, MMR retained its position as the country's costliest housing market, with luxury homes averaging ₹40,200 per sq. ft., mid-segment at ₹16,400 per sq. ft. and affordable homes at ₹6,450 per sq. ft.

Growing HNI base

Industry leaders suggest the luxury segment's momentum is unlikely to slow, powered by India's expanding population of HNIs and ultra-HNIs, rising wealth creation and strong economic stability. Nearly 30% of all homes sold in the top seven cities during the first nine months of 2025 came from the luxury segment—despite rising input costs and supply pressures. With Bengaluru's market fundamentals remaining robust, analysts expect continued long-term growth in both luxury and mid-premium housing.

ಟೆಲಿಕಾಂ ಎಂಪ್ಲಾಯೀಸ್ ಅಂಡ್ ಅದರ್ಸ್ ಹೌಸಿಂಗ್ ವೆಲ್ಫೇರ್ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ (ರಿ.)
TELECOM EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS HOUSING WELFARE TRUST [R]
Reg No. GAN-400021-2017-18 C.D. No. GAND287 TELECOMEMPHOUSINGTRUST.COM

PREMIUM PLOTS FOR SALE at DEVANAHALLI
INVESTMENT PURPOSE - This is your moment, Seize the Opportunity

Price Starts at ₹1,199/-
Booking Open For Employees and Public

SAVE UPTO 10% off
T&C Applicable*

We are also located in
Devanahalli | Tumkur | Doddballapura | Hejjala | Nelamangala | Mysore | Kunigal

Mob : +91 91410 42196 | +91 94801 09111

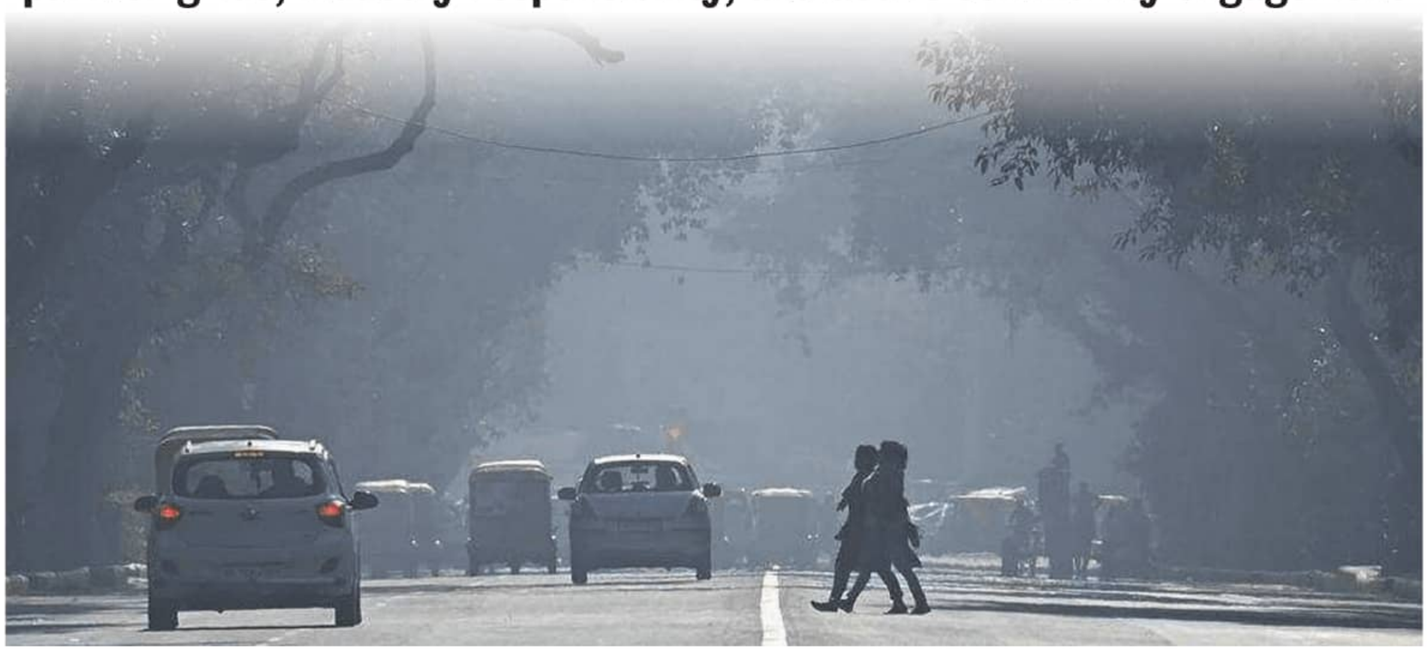
BANGALORE HEAD OFFICE : No. 132 /B , 4th Main, CBI Main Road, Opp, SBI Bank, Ganganagar Extn. Bengaluru - 560032.

MYSORE BRANCH : No. 1087, 2nd stage, 10th cross, near Akka Mahadevi statue, JP Nagar, Mysore - 570031.
Mysore: +91 94825 03999

TUMKUR BRANCH : 6th Main, Valmiki Nagar, Near Unilit TV Showroom, Opp SIT College, Tumkur - 572103
Tumkur: +91 94801 49333

Air-quality crisis sparks community initiative

Citizens emphasise structured pollution-mitigation plan prioritising purifier grids, industry responsibility, and active community engagement



Public funds better spent on air purifiers than bus shelters

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

"Many people, especially children and senior citizens, have been suffering due to poor air quality in the city. We hope to meet the KSPCB Chairman shortly –Albert R, BEM Advisor

Bengaluru Eshanya Mahavedike, a coalition of 25 resident welfare associations in Northeast Bengaluru, has proposed a detailed plan to address the city's deteriorating air quality, which is increasingly linked to rising cases of lung ailments such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and asthma. Stressing that immediate attention is essential, the federation has urged authorities to install large air purifiers along the city's ring road, funded through contributions from nearby corporate establishments. According to its president, Murali Simhadri, such installations could help reduce pollution levels and enhance air quality. He added that granite and marble industries, which significantly contribute to dust and pollution, should also set up major air purifiers in surrounding public areas.

He further questioned the spending of elected representatives' local area funds on setting up multiple bus shelters at the same location, arguing that such funds should instead be used to install air purifiers in every constituency represented by MLAs, MLCs, and MPs. Calling for improved utilisation of public money, he emphasised that a focused approach is essential to bring visible change.

Simhadri also highlighted the need for plantation drives in parks, open spaces, and along roads, urging authorities to involve resident welfare associations and assign specific targets to regional environmental officers to ensure organised cleanup efforts. He stressed that officials of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board must take urgent steps to implement these measures, noting that although improvements will not be immediate, a structured plan backed by collective participation can lead to meaningful progress.

Echoing the need for awareness initiatives, Sujith Sujan, the federation's general secretary, underscored the importance of educating citizens about pollution and promoting waste management and recycling.

Advisor Albert R said members plan to meet KSPCB Chairman PM Narendra Swamy to discuss growing health concerns, particularly affecting children and senior citizens.

Arkavathi, Nethravathi waters cleaner than before

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The recent water quality report cards of Karnataka's rivers, including the Arkavathi, indicate considerable improvement.

Assessment of river quality shows that water in most stretches has improved and can be used as drinking water sources after conventional treatment followed by disinfection.

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) water quality classification report for October shows that, out of 36 river stretches, only five falls under Class D, while 29 have water quality of Class C. Moreover, Nethravathi's water has been classified under Class B.

In October last year, nine stations recorded poor water quality (Class D), and one of the two Arkavathi River stretches fell under Class E. Experts suggest that lower-than-usual rainfall in Karnataka during October could be a factor behind cleaner rivers.

"More intense and frequent rainfall may lead to an increase in nutrients due to surge in storm runoff. With rain, a lot of agricultural runoff enters rivers, increasing nutrient content, thus lowering dissolved oxygen, and increasing biochemical oxygen demand of the water body," analysed a city-based expert.

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Center (KSNDMC), the state recorded 137 mm of rainfall in October, against the normal 131 mm, representing a +5% departure from normal, which is less than the rainfall during the same period last year.

Experts caution that while pollution load appears lower in KSPCB's recent report, rivers across the state continue to suffer from the unabated entry of sewage and agricultural runoff. The board emphasises reducing sewage load through sewage treatment plants and dense riparian vegetation along water bodies, which can absorb nutrients and heavy metals from raw sewage and agricultural discharge.

Under the central government's National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP), water quality in 12 rivers is monitored at 36–38 locations statewide. These rivers include Arkavathi, Lakshmantirtha, Tungabhadra, Bhadra, Cauvery, Kabini, Kagina, Krishna, Shimsha, Bhima, Nethravathi, and Tunga.

Lower-than-usual October rainfall may be improving rivers

Bike taxi legalisation opposed citing major safety concerns

A high-level committee constituted by the Karnataka government has recommended that bike taxi services should not be legalised in the state. The report, submitted to the High Court, highlights the challenges such services would pose, including increased traffic congestion, higher accident risks, and concerns over women's safety.

Vehicle surge impact

Bengaluru has witnessed a 42% population increase between 2015 and 2025. During the same period, motorcycles grew by 98% while cars rose by 79%, compared to only a 14% increase in BMTC buses. The city now has 82.83 lakh bikes and 23.83 lakh cars, crossing a total of 1.06 crore vehicles. The committee warned that legalising bike taxis would likely trigger an additional spike in two-wheelers, worsening congestion and pollution across major corridors.

A two-kilometre bike taxi ride costs ₹48, while the same distance by BMTC costs ₹6

Public transport priority

Committee members, including senior officials from the Transport Department, BBMP, traffic police, and BMTC, emphasised strengthening public transport rather than encouraging bike taxis. The report notes that a single bus can carry around 30 commuters while occupying the road space of 30 bikes, easing traffic flow and reducing emissions.

Cost comparison issues

Bike taxis are also significantly more expensive than BMTC buses. A two-kilometre bike taxi ride costs ₹48, while the same distance by BMTC costs ₹6. Even longer trips of 25–30 km cost only ₹32 on a bus, which can transport 30–40 passengers per trip, making it a more economical and accessible option for daily commuters.

Status of bike taxi approvals in other Indian states

State / Union Territory / Centre	Year of legalising bike-taxi services
Goa	1981
Union Urban Affairs Ministry	2004
Haryana	2015
Andhra, Gujarat, Telangana, West Bengal, Union Road Transport Ministry	2016
Punjab, Rajasthan	2017
Bihar, Chandigarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh	2019
Meghalaya	2020
Karnataka (only electric vehicles)	2022

The report notes that a single bus can carry around 30 commuters while occupying the road space of 30 bikes, easing traffic flow and reducing emissions

Safety and risk

The committee also highlighted safety concerns, recalling earlier issues during electric bike taxi trials, which were withdrawn due to rising harassment complaints from women and inadequate insurance coverage. Legalising conventional bike taxis, the report cautioned, could expose passengers to similar risks and leave them unprotected during accidents.

–BMB

PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/251024/007179

DS-MAX SKY FIELDS

EXPERIENCE A HOME

that seamlessly blends with prime location, upscale living, and exceptional connectivity.

WHITEFIELD

9 MINS.

KADUGODI TREE PARK METRO STATION

5 MINS.

Renowned Educational Institutions

10 MINS.

Malls / Hospitals

10 MINS.

INTERNATIONAL TECH PARK (ITPL)

₹ 72.34 L - 1.30 Cr*

2 & 3-BHK | G + 14 FLOORS

JOY OF LIVING

2, 3 & 4-BHK APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

PRM/KA/RERA/1250/301/PR/251024/007178 G+14
YELAHANKA
5 MINS. RAJANUKUNTE
₹ 49.36 - 88.53 Lakhs*

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721 G+14
MYSORE ROAD
NEAR CHALLAGHATTA METRO STN.
₹ 61.76 - 87.47 Lakhs*

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/060923/006244 G+9
TUMKUR ROAD
10 MINS. MADAVARA METRO STN.
₹ 92.93 L - 1.01 Cr* (3-BHK)

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/210324/006724 G+14
SILKBOARD
NEAR SINGASANDRA METRO STN.
₹ 84.31 L - 1.31 Cr*

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660 G+4
SARJAPURA
SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE ROAD
₹ 63.60 - 83.25 Lakhs*

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/151223/006489 G+3
BANASHANKARI
OPP. NPS SCHOOL (3 & 4-BHK)
₹ 1.45 - 2.17 Cr*

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006972 G+4
HOSA ROAD METRO
NEAR ELECTRONIC CITY
₹ 67.92 L - 1.34 Cr*

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006973 G+14
BANNERGHATTA RD.
NEAR KOPPA GATE
₹ 56.64 - 82.18 Lakhs*

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/472/PR/250225/007524 G+14
AIRPORT ROAD
NEAR PRESTIGE TECH IT PARK
₹ 87.89 L - 1.21 Cr*

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/280222/004739 G+3
CHANDAPURA
10 MINS. ELECTRONIC CITY
₹ 60.30 - 98.70 Lakhs*

Visit our website or
talk to our advisors
for the complete portfolio

www.dsmaxproperties.com

ಡಿಎಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್

FOR PROJECT SPECIFIC INFORMATION 7022 791 222

Disclaimer: Information provided in this advertisement is for reference only, and all data is sourced internally. The images, illustrations, and artist's impressions used in this advertisement are for representational purposes only. The prices mentioned are indicative and base prices. Any offers, discounts, or incentives mentioned in this advertisement are subject to specific terms and conditions. All taxes, registration charges, stamp duty, and any other statutory payments are applicable as per government regulations. All directions, locations, and landmarks are approximate. Please use reliable resources for accurate travel times. Mentioning a specific product, process, or service does not imply endorsement. Please contact our Sales Team for detailed information about specific projects, pricing, availability, and other inquiries. DS-MAX Properties ensures that all its projects comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and its regulations. **Visit : www.rera.karnataka.gov.in**

*T & C Apply

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/bangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

SOLITARY PELICAN SCOUT

Our reader shares a striking image of a lone Spot-billed Pelican quietly surveying Sarakki Lake, a behaviour observed over the years as it assesses fish availability before inviting its flock. Captured in a moment of calm purpose, the Pelican's solitary presence highlights the lake's delicate ecological rhythms and the wisdom of its visiting wildlife.

The picture was clicked by reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Varthur–Gunjur corridor drags on, residents brace for prolonged hardship

Land acquisition hurdles and slow construction push the elevated corridor's timeline to 2027, deepening daily traffic chaos and health concerns for commuters

The widening of the Varthur–Gunjur Road and construction of the elevated corridor continue at a crawl, promising at least two more years of disruption for motorists and residents. Land acquisition has emerged as the biggest setback, casting doubt on whether the project will meet its revised deadlines.

The Karnataka Road Development Corporation (KRDCL), which is executing the work, has already indicated it needs a minimum of two additional years to complete the elevated corridor. Approved in 2016–17, the 1.92-km, 60-ft elevated stretch from Varthur Lake Kodi to Vinayaka Theatre was originally estimated at ₹482 crore. The project includes widening the existing 30-metre road to 100 metres, extending the mini-flyover at Varthur Kodi, integrating a double-decker structure, and accommodating railway alignment requirements—features that have added complexity and prolonged timelines.

Progress on the ground remains slow, with drainage and demolition works being the only activities showing visible movement. Of the 198 properties marked for acquisition, most have been taken over and compensated, but 19 remain unresolved, slowing the entire project and creating uncertainty for commuters who depend heavily on the corridor.

With key properties still pending acquisition and ground work inching forward, the Varthur–Gunjur stretch remains a dust-filled, pothole-ridden bottleneck. Commuters demand safer, motorable roads as delays strain mobility and public health

Residents say their initial support for road widening shifted to strong objections once the elevated design was proposed, forcing multiple revisions and contributing to delays. Meanwhile, the K-SHIP division is preparing a ₹2.6-crore plan to fill potholes along a 70-km stretch of State Highway-35, offering temporary relief for motorists using the battered route.

KRDCL officials maintain that work has marginally improved compared to last year but admit that land acquisition continues to be the toughest hurdle. Some stretches have progressed through BDA-issued TDR, and drainage work is underway. The agency expects full completion only by 2027.

With no parallel alternative to the Outer Ring Road, SH-35 remains the only major connector for commuters. The narrow, potholed stretch, worsened by dust from construction activity, has made daily travel hazardous. Residents say frequent minor accidents, health issues caused by dust, and deteriorating road conditions have made the corridor nearly unmotorable, urging authorities to ensure at least a safe, usable roadway until the project is finished. **— BMB**

With 19 properties still stuck in limbo, progress on the elevated corridor slows sharply, adding to residents' mounting frustration over worsening road conditions

DID YOU KNOW?

Boeing and NASA have agreed to keep astronauts off the company's upcoming Starliner mission, opting instead for a cargo-only test flight to demonstrate the capsule's safety. The decision follows the troubled 2024 crewed mission, in which NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams managed to dock Starliner to the International Space Station but were unable to return in the capsule due to multiple malfunctions. After more than nine months in orbit, the astronauts were brought home aboard a SpaceX vehicle, prompting an extensive engineering review of Starliner's thruster and propulsion systems. NASA now plans to conduct a cargo trial no earlier than April, pending additional testing and certification. Boeing reiterated that it remains committed to the program and prioritises safety above all. However, NASA has reduced the total planned Starliner flights from six to four. If the upcoming cargo mission succeeds, the remaining three flights will be used for crew rotations before the space station's planned decommissioning in 2030. Steve Stich, NASA's commercial crew program manager, said both teams continue to rigorously test Starliner's propulsion system ahead of potential flights next year. **— AP**

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR
9591233247
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

₹1.5 lakh income in 1 month from ₹21,000 investment! True?

The Claim: A viral video circulating on social media shows Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allegedly promoting an investment scheme that promises extremely high returns — claiming that investing ₹21,000 can yield ₹1.5 lakh in a month and similar quick-profit offers.
Fact: PIB Fact Check has confirmed both videos are AI-generated and fake. The Finance Minister has not endorsed any such investment scheme. Authorities warn the public to avoid "too-good-to-be-true" offers, verify claims on official sites, and report suspicious content promptly.

A video is being shared online where one can see Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman promoting an investment scheme offering Rs 1.5 lakh in a month by investing just Rs 21,000. It questions whether the Finance Minister is really promoting an investment scheme that offers such a high return in just one month. The PIB Fact Check team has clarified that this video is fake and has been generated through artificial intelligence (AI). The fact-check team said that the Finance Minister and the government have not announced or endorsed any such investment scheme.

What does Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman claim in the doctored video?

According to a PIB Fact Check post on social media X, "A doctored video of Union Finance Minister @nsitharaman is being shared online, falsely suggesting she is promoting an investment scheme that guarantees Rs 1.5 lakh in just one month for an investment of Rs 21,000"

The RBI warns that schemes promising high and quick returns can be risky. It is important to invest your money wisely. Before investing, carefully check the background and past performance of the entity offering the scheme. Always read the terms and conditions thoroughly."

If you encounter entities illegally accepting money or defaulting on the repayment of deposits, you can file and track a complaint with the authorities.

In another digitally altered video featuring the Finance Minister, Sitharman can be seen claiming that an investment of Rs 22,000 could generate Rs 60,000 in a day and approximately Rs 10 lakh per month if people use a smart trading platform."

The PIB Fact Check team has confirmed that this video is also AI generated and the Finance Minister has not endorsed any such scheme.

How to protect yourself from such online investment scams:

Be wary of too-good-to-be-true returns. Always verify claims through official government or financial institution websites. Avoid clicking on links from unknown or suspicious sources. Never share personal or banking details on unverified platforms. Report scam ads or videos on the platform where you see them." **— ET Online**

Custodial torture claims after Dalit man's death

A 24-year-old Dalit man, Darshan, died under suspicious circumstances on November 26 after allegedly being assaulted in police custody and later admitted to a private rehabilitation centre in Bengaluru. He was taken into custody by Viveknagar Police on November 12 following an altercation near his home. His mother, Adilakshmi, filed a detailed complaint alleging custodial violence, illegal detention, and negligence by both the police and the Unity Foundation Rehab Centre.

According to her, the family was repeatedly denied access to meet him, and Assistant Sub-Inspector Pawan along with two others allegedly beat him so severely that he could not walk. On November 15, they were informed that he had been shifted to the rehab centre near Madanayakanahalli, where she was pressured to pay ₹2,500 for his admission and was assured, he was recovering.

On November 26, the family received a call saying he had died due to breathing difficulties. At the centre, his body was missing. They later found him declared "brought dead" at Nelamangala Government Hospital, with injuries on his chest, back, and limbs. Case filed under SC/ST Act and IPC: investigation is currently underway. **–BMB**

Prohibited items seized in jail raid

Officials seized a large cache of prohibited items during a late-night surprise inspection at Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara on Wednesday, exposing persistent security breaches and illegal internal networks. The raid — conducted between 8.30–9.30 pm and again from 11:05 pm to 12.30 am on November 27 — resulted in the recovery of 33 mobile phones, 22 SIM cards, five chargers, four wireless earbuds, one wired earphone, ₹49,000 in cash, and three knife-like sharp objects from inmates.

Police officials believe the electronic devices were being used to coordinate illegal activities, extortion, and maintain communication with external criminal networks. A case has been registered under Section 42 and other provisions of the Karnataka Prisons (Amendment) Act, 2022 against inmates found using the items, those who facilitated smuggling, and prison staff suspected of enabling entry of banned materials. An FIR has been filed, and investigations are ongoing to identify the supply chain. **–BMB**

CM stresses on stricter policing, quicker action

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday issued firm directives to the state police, calling for improved quality in criminal investigations and timely legal action. Speaking at the annual state-level police conference, he noted that although Karnataka's overall crime rate has declined, the standard of investigations has weakened. He pointed to delays in major cases—including a Bidar robbery suspect who remains unarrested five months after identification—and questioned lapses in filing chargesheets and inaction in hate-speech incidents.

Reviewing police performance for 2024 and plans for 2025, the CM highlighted a drop in serious crimes such as murder, theft and dacoity. However, he stressed that investigation quality, not statistics alone, determines justice. Cybercrime, which fell from 24% in 2023 to 9% this year, requires stronger, time-bound probing, he said. Siddaramaiah instructed senior officers to regularly visit stations, monitor FIRs and prioritise cases involving women, children, Dalits and farmers.He demanded swift investigations, proactive policing, recuritment, and stronger public safety. **–BMB**

State moves to set up urban vigilance committees for child protection

Government directs all city corporations to create panels empowering women, kids and community members to prevent rights violations and ensure safety

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The state government has issued notification to make arrangements for the formation of women and child protection vigilance committees (WCPVCs) in cities on the lines of rural areas across the state. All these years, the authorities took measures to form WCPVCs only in rural areas. The notification dated November 26 stated that the committees should now be constituted in urban areas as well, and that the authorities concerned must take steps to establish them in all municipal corporations, including the Bengaluru City Corporation.

According to the notification, the purpose of forming WCPVCs is to protect child rights, prevent child marriages, and create awareness about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. It mandates that women must constitute more than 50 per cent of the total members in each committee. The WCPVC is required to convene a meeting once every three months, and it will be the responsibility of the Secretary to ensure that the decisions taken during these meetings are implemented without delay. The committees must also take measures to offer assistance, moral support and rehabilitation help to victims of human trafficking.

The notification further states that each WCPVC should be headed by the chairman or mayor of the respective urban local body. Two members of the urban local body, including at least one woman, will serve on the committee. Additionally, two women working in the field of women's welfare should be nominated as members. To ensure representation of young voices, the Block Education Officer is required to nominate two students—one girl and one boy—from a municipal school to serve on the committee.

Experts highlight the need for parental involvement and community participation to ensure every child benefits equally from protection and vigilance initiatives statewide

The notification brings long-awaited protection committees to urban areas, ensuring stronger oversight, community participation, student representation, and awareness on POCSO, trafficking, and child rights across Karnataka's municipal bodies

Child rights activists and experts have welcomed the state government's decision to extend the mechanism to urban areas, calling it a long-overdue move. Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) Chairman Shashidhar S Kosambe said the notification would help bridge a long-standing gap in urban child protection systems. "We welcome the government's decision to form WCPVCs in urban areas. These committees have been functioning well in rural areas, but there were no such committees in cities all these years. Since child rights violations are increasingly being reported in urban parts of the state, this initiative will go a long way in ensuring better protection," he said.

KSCPCR member Dr Thippeswamy K T said he was pleased to see the government act on the Commission's request. "We had written to the government urging the formation of WCPVCs in cities. I am very happy that the notification has now been issued," he said.

Women and juvenile rights advocate Anjali Ramanna described the move as necessary but added that urban committees must avoid reinforcing existing stereotypes. "It is imprinted in the minds of the public that these programmes are meant only for children from government schools or economically weaker backgrounds. It is our responsibility to change this mindset and ensure people understand that child-welfare initiatives apply to every child without discrimination," she said. She urged involving parents as rotating committe members.

CM seeks urgent Centre help for farmers

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking urgent intervention as farmers across the state face a severe price crash in maize and green gram (moong). In a letter dated November 21, 2025, the Chief Minister said lakhs of farmers are in distress as market prices have fallen far below the Minimum Support Price (MSP), despite a bumper harvest this Kharif season.

Karnataka cultivated maize on 17.94 lakh hectares and green gram on 4.16 lakh hectares this year, expecting 54.74 lakh metric tonnes of maize and 1.98 lakh metric tonnes of moong. However, the CM noted that the abundant output has not translated into better returns. While the Centre has fixed the MSP at ₹7,400 per MT for maize and ₹28,768 per MT for green gram, current market prices in Karnataka have plunged to ₹2,160–₹7,180 per MT for maize and around ₹5,400 per MT for green gram—well below support levels.

Siddaramaiah sought five immediate measures from the Union Government to stabilise the situation. He urged agencies such as NAFED, FCI and NCCF to begin MSP procurement without delay, and requested that ethanol plants be directed to purchase maize directly from farmers. He also appealed for a higher allocation for Karnataka under the national ethanol tender, restrictions on maize imports that have contributed to the price fall, and relaxation of procurement norms so that mildly discoloured moong can still qualify for MSP.

Stating that Karnataka's farmers have consistently strengthened India's food security, he urged the Prime Minister to act swiftly to prevent widespread agrarian distress in the state. **–BMB**

Cabinet pushes life term for drugs

The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the tabling of five key bills in the upcoming Belagavi Assembly session, signalling a strong push for regulatory reforms across sectors. Among them is the Drugs and Cosmetics (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seeks to make the sale of fake or adulterated medicines and cosmetics a non-bailable offence, with punishment enhanced to life imprisonment. Law Minister HK Patil said the move aims to curb the rising threat of counterfeit medical products in the state. The Cabinet has also cleared the Chandragutti Sri Renukamba Temple Development Authority Bill, the Karnataka Film and Cultural Workers' Welfare (Amendment) Bill, the Karnataka Urban Development Authorities (Amendment) Bill and the Karnataka State Universities (Second Amendment) Bill for introduction. **–BMB**

Bengaluru Traffic Police bag award

The Economic Times Infra Leadership Summit 2025 was held on Thursday at Le Meridien, New Delhi, bringing together policymakers, infrastructure experts, and technology leaders to discuss India's future development under the theme "Infra 4.0 – Integrating Technology, Data, and Design for Next-Gen Infrastructure Excellence."

At the event, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) was honoured with the ET Infra Leadership Award 2025 under the category Excellence in Urban Digital Infrastructure for its AI-driven traffic management project. The initiative marks a significant shift in how urban mobility is managed in fast-growing metropolitan cities.

Officials stated BTP's AI-driven traffic management initiative has been recognised for transforming how a metropolitan city manages mobility leveraging real-time data, adaptive signal systems, predictive analytics, and digital collaboration platforms to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and enhance commuter experience. The award was received by the Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy, on behalf of the Bengaluru Traffic Police.

Stay under lock and key

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

working different shifts request that doors be left unlocked to avoid disturbing their roommates. This habit creates an easy opportunity for intruders," he said, stressing on the need for vigilance.

The Commissioner added that security guards must strictly monitor who enters and exits the premises. "Additionally, if three people are sharing a room, each one should have a separate key to ensure the door can remain locked at all times without causing inconvenience," he said.

These simple precautions, he said, can significantly reduce the chances of such incidents. Under each division DCP, ACPs are creating awareness among PG owners about safety concerns.

Recently, a woman filed a complaint at HAL police station alleging that a group of seven to eight men impersonated police officers and raided her PG around 2 am on November 7. The men first claimed to be delivery boys, then barged in, searched the premises, threatened the women, and stole two mobile phones. Police have registered a case and arrested six accused Najas, Sarun, Vishnu K T, Diwakar, Madhu Kumar, and Kiran. The gang allegedly warned the complainant they would return if their demands were not met.

Just days later on November 21, Bengaluru police arrested a man identified as Govardhan for a series of thefts targeting PG accommodations. His arrest helped crack 15 cases, with Mico Layout police recovering 20 laptops, a mobile phone, and cash. Govardhan had been stealing from PGs across the city for months. A complaint about a laptop and cash stolen from a PG in BTM 2nd Stage on November 11 triggered the investigation that ultimately led to his capture.

In September, police arrested bike taxi rider Naresh Pattem, 30, for trespassing into a women's PG in BTM 1st Stage, sexually assaulting a tenant, and stealing 2,500. The incident occurred between 3 and 4 am on August 29 at Laxmana Durga Ladies PG. Pattem, a native of Madanapalli, Andhra Pradesh, had previous robbery cases in Bengaluru and returned to the city after securing bail in 2021. CCTV footage showed him entering through an open door while the guard slept, assaulting the woman, and fleeing within minutes.

In a separate incident, a 30-year-old assistant engineer was robbed and molested at knifepoint in her PG accommodation. An unknown man knocked on her door in the afternoon, forced his way in, and attempted to steal her gold bangles. When she struggled to remove them, he took cash and two mobile phones before fleeing.

But robberies are not just isolated cases, there has been a case where a woman was allegedly stabbed by an engineer at a co-living PG facility after she refused his sexual advances and he blackmailed her.

These events have highlighted serious lapses in security measures at some PG accommodations, including security guards being asleep during incidents, and concerns about overall safety standards for residents, particularly women.

Amid growing safety concerns, officials sealed 14 PG accommodations last week for operating without valid licences and failing to comply with essential safety norms. Authorities found that many of these facilities lacked proper fire safety systems, CCTV surveillance, trained security personnel, and adequate emergency exits serious lapses that placed residents in danger. Stepping up its enforcement efforts, the Bengaluru East City Corporation has also identified 165 unlicensed PGs that were functioning without the required approvals.

Arun Kumar, PG association president, told BM that tenant safety is the top priority. "PG accommodations house thousands of young women and men who come to Bengaluru for education and employment. Operators cannot compromise on basic safety. Facilities functioning without proper registration are endangering its residents. PGs must install biometric entry systems, functional CCTV cameras, and employ trained security guards who remain alert and can significantly deter outsiders. Residents too compromise everyone's safety if they allow unknown friends or guests inside without informing the management," he said.

Your Connect

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

IT RELATED

COMPUTER OPERATORS

AGARWALA FLOORING Immediate Requirement 2 Sales Man Excellent in English ,Tamil, Malayalam 2 office staff Excellent Computer skill Contact: 94805-61341, 93094-50799

services

REPAIRS/ WATERPROOFING

WATER PROOFING
HERE IS THE SOLUTION FOR LEAKAGE ... LEAKAGE ...
OLD/NEW BUILDING, Sump, Bathroom, Terrace Wallcrack Skylight, Water proofing done by New Technology. Ph: 9880916988

auto

PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

MERCEDES

MERCEDEZ Benz ML350CDI 4 Matic (2011) Diesel for sale. Silver color, 127000 kms driven, Good Condition. Contact : 9110298505

real estate

LAND FOR SALE

KODAIKANAL
SPECTACULAR VALLEY VIEW
Ultra-Luxury 8 BHK Bungalow with Approvals Land 3 ACRES
90907 55000
COSMIC PROPERTIES

PLOTS FOR SALE

✔ **FOR** SALE - 60×40 A-Khatha Residential Plot near RR Nagar Police Stn, Blr. Clear Titles. Prime Location. Cont: 9353617851

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

HORAMAVU

SALE 8300 sft East facing E-khata ready plot in Horamavu Agara with 160 ft main road frontage access. Rs 8000/sft. Contact 9945694511/9886882701

KALYAN NAGAR

HBR layout 2 BHK 1101 sqft flat, East & North facing BDA plot 40ft Road, 24hrs water, 79L behind Nagavara KEB office, Nr Ring Rd. Call -9632296279.

NELMANGALA

30X40 Northeast & Northwest corner plots in Savera park layout, Vajarahalli. Rs.7600/sft. Single buyer preferred. Brokers strictly excuse. 9686111709

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

LEASE & RENT

RENT commercial Ground floor Beml 3rd stg Rajarajeshwari nagar Bangalore-9945479966

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, FATHIMA TAHASEEN, R/a. #80, Shashikala House, Dinnur Main Raod, Anjappa Block, Ganesh Temple Cross, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru-560032. I, have Changed my name from FATHIMA TAHASEEN N. (NOORULLA) to FATHIMA TAHASEEN, Vide affidavit dated 28.11.2025 Sworn before Notary: V.B.Prasad, K.G.F, Bangarpet Taluk.

I Hajira Fazil W/o Afsar Pasha R/o 180 Dayanada Nagara 1st Block Jayanagara Bangalore 560011Have Changed My Name From Hajira To Hajira Fazil For All Future purpose

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

I, Pasha Moqtiyar S/o pasha Khader R/o #4, Tippu Circle Bilwaradahalli B'lore-560083 have changed my name to Mukthiyar Pasha.

I, Chikkavenkatareddy S/o K Narayanappa, R/o # 85 Nandiganahalli Village, Chintamani, Chikkaballapura 563125 have changed my name to N Chikkavenkatareddy For All Purposes.

I,TIRTH S/o Mahendra Kumar R/o Flat 1304 C block ETA garden Magadi Road Bangalore 560023 have changed my name to TIRTH M JAIN for all purposes

I, Shashikala V R/O Bangalore, Karnataka, have changed my name to Afiya Fathima for all purposes and records, vide Affidavit No IN-KA98350637650816X

I, Satish R/o 35/S02 Nandana Residency Lithium Hub Dasarahalli B'lore-560024 have changed my name to Satish Sadananda Bevinamar.

I, Vijaya Kanchikallu R/o No.12, Srishti, Spoorthi Layout, Kadabagere, Bangalore 562130 have changed my minor daughter's name from Srishti Vijaya to Srishti

I, Mukiya Shawn Edward S/o Edward Mukiya R/o No. 288 Sree Ranga , HBCS 12th Cross Road, HBCS Vidyagiri Layout , Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru 560072 have changed my name to Shawn for all purposes

I, Purushothama R s/o Rangaram R, R/o No.8, 2nd main, Amarjyothi Lyt, Anandnagar, Hebbal, Bengaluru 560024 have changed my name to Rohith Ravish Affidavit Dt.29/08/2006 Notary K V Bachi Reddy, Bengaluru

I, A SWETHA residing at No 6/2 K No. 13, 7th Main, C.K.Nagara, Bengaluru–560100. I have changed my name to SASHIKALA YARABALLI. Vide affidavit dated 26/11/2025 sworn before notary. Y R CHANDRASEKAR Bangalore.

I, Shantha Sharma R/o #66, lions Old Age Home, 3rd Main, Sagar Layout, Devarachikkana halli, Bangalore - 560076 I have changed my name from Shanta Anil Sharma to Shantha Sharma for all purpose.

I, Sajida Begum Shariff Jan W/o Abdul Kareem Sharif Jan R/o #16/2 9th Main Road 15th Cross ,Lakkasandra B'lore-560027 have changed my name to Sajida Begum.

I, S R VENKATARAMANA S/O S RAMACHANDRAPPA, Residing at No. 12, 19th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Dasarahalli, H A Farm Post, Bangalore - 560024, have changed my name from VENKATARAMANA To S R VENKATARAMANA.

I, Nachiketha.P.B S/o Bhanuprakash.P.L R/o #44, Brindavan Layout, Vijinapura, Doorvaninagar, Ramamurthynagar, B'luru 560016 have changed my name to Nachiketh.P.B.

I Basavaraju chandrashekaraiah sali R/o No 71, belaku nilaya someshwara nagara Yelahanka new Town Bangalore -64 Have changed my name to Basavaraju chandrashekaraiah Salimath

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **S. Ravi Kumar** S/o R. Subbaraya Setty, residing at opp. sri kannika parameshwari temple, bazar street, Arsikere town, Hassan District-573103, stating that, my new name will be **S. Ravi Kumar** and old name will be **S.Ravi Kumara**. But I would like to officially change my name to **S.Ravi Kumar** from **S.Ravi Kumara**. Hereinafter I will henceforth deal with the name S.Ravi kumar only. Therefore, i have sworn before Notary and Advocate **H.K. Ramesh** vide affidavit dated 27.11.2025.

55 staffers proposed across all corporations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

staffing pattern for smooth functioning," said a source.

"As many as 55 forest officials manning the city's green cover and allied activities will make a lot of difference. The Forest Department in the earlier regime has always worked with a staff crunch, and its impact is visible. GBA carries out large-scale plantation activities, and although executed by contractors, the survival rate will be much higher if ACFs and RFOs supervise them. It can happen only when there are adequate hands on deck," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust and a city-based environmentalist.

Notably, GBA also has 30 canopy management teams with eight members in each team, which mostly addresses applications from the public and approvals of tree or branch felling granted by the Tree Expert Committee. Over the past few years, the number of canopy management teams has increased. There were 15 canopy management teams in 2020, which was expanded to 28 teams in 2023, followed by 30 teams in 2025.

GBA recently also deployed a team of 10 forestry students, called tree enumerators, to identify trees that face a risk of falling during storms and the monsoon.

Experts say while it is a welcome sign to see the forest staff being strengthened, what matters most is robust implementation on the ground.

"Now that GBA has taken charge and five city corporations have been demarcated, manpower must also be rationally distributed based on each corporation's area and tree population. Had the city's tree census been completed, it would have been far easier to allocate staff scientifically. The tree policy and staffing norms now need to be revisited to ensure maximum protection of our urban forestry and green canopy in the city," said Vinod Jacob, a city-based environmentalist.

"There has hardly been any activity for beautification of the city through greening. Adequate staff will ensure that avenue plantation and roadside greening happen regularly," added Devare.

Digital portal transforms pilgrimage lodging ease

Expansion of Karnataka government's digital platform offering accommodation booking for temple visits allows devotees to increasingly plan hassle-free trips

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Devotees at Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple (File photo)

Karnataka Temples Accommodation portal, which began with single accommodation has now expanded to over dozen options, offering visitors seamless pilgrimage planning across wider network

IN FOCUS
Online bookings

The official Karnataka Temples Accommodation portal, started in 2023 to help pilgrims find lodging, has now grown into a network spanning more than a dozen locations making temple stay far more accessible across the state. With the expansion, many more devotees are finding it easier to plan their pilgrimages in advance rather than scrambling for rooms on arrival. The revenue generated so far is Rs 32.5 crores.

The website began with a single accommodation, Tirumala Venkateswara Temple in Tirupati, and now features over 12. According to official data, the portal has recorded 5.5 lakh sign-ups, showing how quickly devotees are shifting to the digital platform. So far, the portal has handled 1.65 lakh reservations, along with an additional 2.5 lakh guests who stayed along with primary applicants. In total, 716 rooms across temple accommodation centres are now available for online booking.

According to the site's publicly available sitemap, the portal now lists accommodations at temples such as Sri Chamundeshwari Temple (Mysuru), Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple (Dakshina Kannada), Sri Mookambika Temple (Kollur, Udupi), and others such as Sri Renuka Yellamma Temple (Saundatti, Belagavi), and various choultries and guest houses across the state.

Among the many temples listed on the portal, three stand out for attracting the highest number of pilgrims.

First is Tirumala/Tirupati, where a high number of bookings are made through the Karnataka Temple Accomodation portal. The temple's immense popularity, combined with the ease of online reservations, has led to a sharp surge in early bookings.

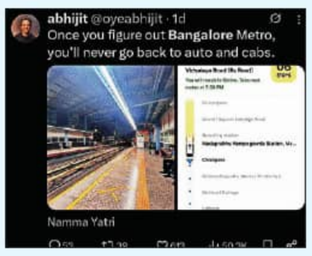
Next is the Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple, nestled in the lush greenery of Subrahmanya village in Kadaba taluk, Dakshina Kannada. Surrounded by dense forests and hills, the temple is dedicated to Lord Subramanya and is one of the state's most visited spiritual destinations.

The third major attraction is the Sri Mookambika Temple in Kollur, a key pilgrimage centre in Udupi district. Set against the scenic backdrop of the Kodachadri hills, the temple is known for its serene beauty and deep spiritual significance. It has been a revered centre of Devi Shakti worship for centuries, drawing devotees from across the country.

A source said, "This shift shows a significant departure from earlier years, when pilgrims often had to rely on informal guest houses, local choultries, or last-minute hotel bookings. Now, devotees can plan ahead. It serves as the sole official booking portal, a measure meant to combat fake booking websites and fraud."

SOCIALTATTLE

THAT WENT VIRAL



@oyeabhijit captured Bengaluru's new rhythm of travel in a viral post with over 50,000 views, quipping that once you crack the code of the city's metro, you'll never look back at cab rides, highlighting swift commutes that outpace city jams.

WHAT'S TWEETING

@lalitgrateful highlighted Bengaluru's nip in the air in a quirky post on X, describing pictures of the city in a foggy weather as, "Bangalore when the temperature hits 16°C. City turns into Manali without the tourists."

BANGALORE MIRROR TAGGED

Dr.Abhijith Shetty @Abhijith... · 3d
Best time to rapidly improve hubli Dharwad infrastructure and attract big investment. @HdmcHubliDwd @aaihbxairport @compolhdc @HubliCityeGroup @BelladArvind @JoshiPralhad @Hubli_Infra @nagabhushanb Source: Bangalore Mirror

An X user mentioned BM's article, while commenting that, "Best time to improve Hubli Dharwad infrastructure and attract big investment."

498A not marriage-bound

In a significant ruling, the Karnataka High Court has clarified that Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code—pertaining to cruelty—can be invoked even where the marriage is void, voidable, or akin to a live-in relationship, so long as the essential elements of the offence are established.

The bench rejected the argument that Section 498A applies only to legally valid marriages and cannot encompass a relationship where the man's prior marriage renders the later one void. Consequently, it dismissed the petition. –BMB

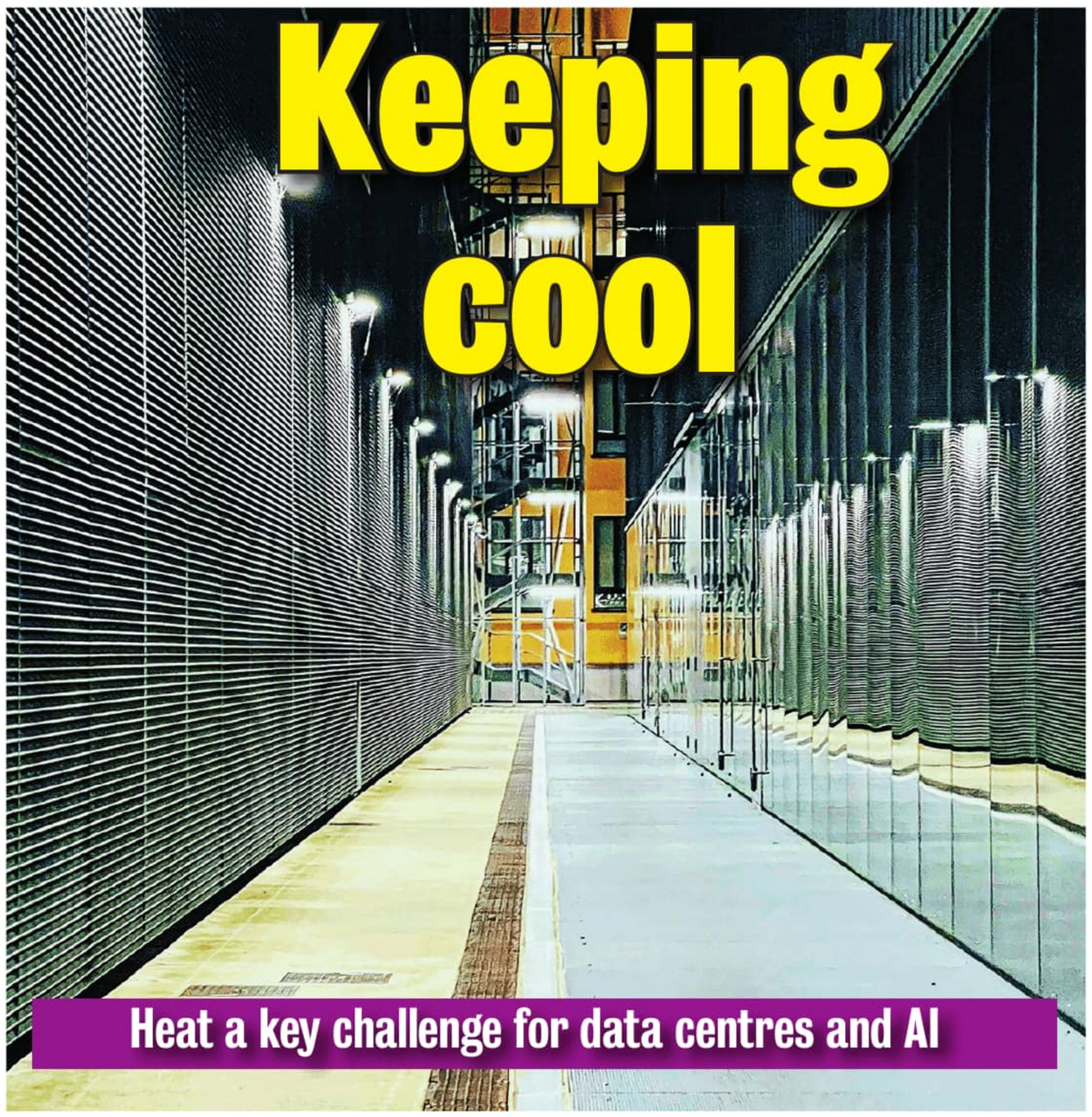
Better selection demanded

The Karnataka High Court has instructed the state government to formulate, within three months, a transparent and structured procedure for selecting the Chairperson and members of the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Special Courts. The direction came from Justice Ashok S Kinagi while allowing a petition filed by former district judge Devananda Puttappa Nayak. Justice Kinagi observed that the State's public notice inviting applications lacked any prescribed method for choosing among multiple eligible candidates. –BMB

NCPA
NCPA @ THE PARK
Venue Partner
30 NOV 2025 | UB CITY BENGALURU
SAPAN VERMA LIVE | 6:00 PM
Sapan Verma gives his hysterical take on adulthood, chaos, and questionable life choices.
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF INDIA | 7:00 PM
A musical voyage with the SOI tracing centuries of sound from Vivaldi to Sinatra.
SOI Patron
citi
REGISTER HERE
FREE ENTRY | Register now bookmyshow
An NCPA community outreach initiative. Admission is on a first-come-first-served basis. By entering the event and/or participating in the event, the attendees consent to be photographed/video graphed/recorded by electronic and print mediums for telecast/publication and other display usage of the organisers/sponsors.

 # Threat of ban
Russia threatens full ban on WhatsApp, TASS reports

Keeping cool



Heat a key challenge for data centres and AI

The global boom in data centres as companies increasingly outsource information storage and ramp up use of energy-intensive artificial intelligence is creating a key challenge for the industry - how to keep cool.

An outage at the world's biggest exchange operator CME Group from late Thursday that halted trade on its popular currency platform and in futures spanning foreign exchange, commodities, Treasuries and stocks has put a spotlight on data centers overheating.

The problem was a cooling issue at data centres operated by Dallas-headquartered CyrusOne, which operates more than 55 centers in the US, Europe and Japan.

CyrusOne said on Friday its engineering teams were on site at the data center near Chicago to get the cooling system back online.

What causes the heat?

High-powered AI and cloud servers crunching data need huge amounts of power, which gives off intense heat that traditional air cooling systems are often unable to cool properly.

Data centres contain racks of servers stacked together which are constantly turned on, consuming power. As they heat up, they require constant cooling.

"The chips that are in those data centres need to stay within certain temperatures, otherwise they either malfunction or they turn off," said Daniel Mewton, a partner in the infrastructure, energy and natural resources practice at law firm Slaughter and May.

What can data centre operators do about it?

More data centres are looking to use water or specialized coolants instead of air cooling, as liquid cooling can be 3,000 times more efficient than air at removing heat.

Liquid cooling however can create its own challenges, including potential leaks, corrosion and the need for specialized maintenance. It can also be water intensive.

Companies are looking to find ways to reduce outside coolants. Microsoft last year launched a new data center design that consumes zero water for cooling.

According to the company, its new technologies recycle water through a closed loop, circulating between the servers and chillers to dissipate heat without needing a fresh supply.

There are also systems to recover and reuse waste heat from data centres.

Data centres contain racks of servers stacked together that are constantly turned on, consuming power. As they heat up, they require constant cooling as the chips need to stay withing certain temperatures

How common are outages linked to cooling issues?

Mewton said that in general data center outages were "extremely uncommon" because of contractual requirements for operators to keep them almost always online.

"You need to be up more than 99.99% of the time sometimes," he said.

While outages overall were fairly unusual, specific issues directly affecting cooling systems were "even rarer", Mewton said. "What I most often hear (about) is obviously power issues," he said.

A wave of deal-making for data center cooling

The global appetite for data centers has sparked a wave of deal-making across the industry as companies race to build capacity to meet the surge in power and cooling needs.

Law firm White and Case estimates that up to 40% of total energy consumption in data centers is spent on cooling them down, making it a big business.

In November, power management firm Eaton said it would buy Boyd Corporation's thermal business from Goldman Sachs Asset Management for $9.5 billion, part of a push to cater to an AI demand surge.

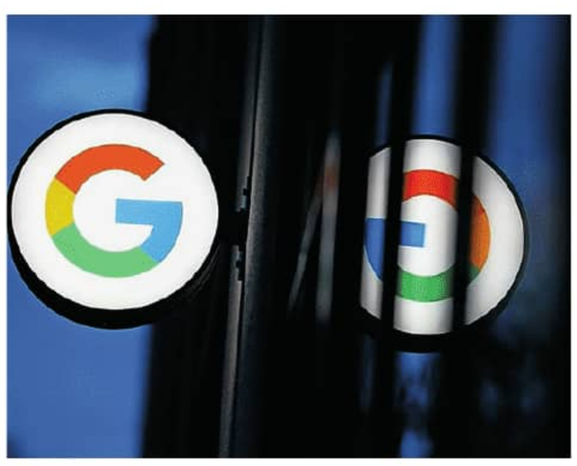
Peer Vertiv is also in a $1 billion deal for PurgeRite Intermediate to expand its liquid cooling services. **-Reuters**

Google ditches antitrust plaint about Microsoft

Alphabet's Google on Friday dropped its EU antitrust complaint about rival Microsoft's cloud computing practices, a week after EU regulators launched an investigation to see if Microsoft should be subject to rules aimed at curbing its power in this sector. Last year, Google took its grievance to the European Commission, alleging that Microsoft's anti-competitive practices locked customers into Microsoft's cloud platform Azure.

Amazon leads the cloud computing market with a 30% share, followed by Microsoft at 20% and Google at 13%.

"Today, we are withdrawing it (Microsoft complaint) in light of the recent announcement that the EC will assess problematic practices affecting the cloud sector under a separate process," Giorgia Abeltino, head of government affairs and public policy for Google Cloud Europe, said in a blog post.



"We continue to work with policymakers, customers, and regulators across the EU, the UK, and elsewhere to advocate for choice and openness in the cloud market," she said. The Commission, which acts as the EU competition enforcer, is investigating whether certain features of the cloud sector may be reinforcing Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services' market power.

The probes, due to be completed in a year, could see both services designated as gatekeepers under the EU's Digital Markets Act, subject to a list of dos and don'ts aimed at opening up markets to rivals and giving users more choices. **—Reuters**

BITS & BYTES

Apple in radar

EU antitrust regulators will examine whether Apple's Apple Ads and Apple Maps should be subject to the onerous requirements of the bloc's digital rules after both services hit key criteria, with the U.S. tech giant saying they should be exempted.

Apple's App Store, iOS operating system and Safari web browser were designated core platform services under the Digital Markets Act two years ago aimed at reining in the power of Big Tech and opening up the field to rivals so consumers can have more choice.

The European Commission said that Apple has notified it that Apple Ads and Apple Maps met the Act's two thresholds to be considered "gatekeepers".

The DMA designates companies with services with more than 45 million monthly active users and 75 billion euros ($79 billion) in market capitalisation as gatekeepers subject to a list of dos and don'ts. **-Reuters**

Spill details

Sebi on Friday proposed that all regulated entities and their agents should prominently display registered name and registration number on the home page of their social media platforms.

This proposal comes after the regulator observed the growing need to clearly distinguish content uploaded by Sebi-regulated persons from material posted by unregistered individuals on social media.

According to Sebi, such differentiation is essential to prevent investors from being misled.

Further, while publishing videos or any other content on social-media platforms (SMPs), regulated entities should ensure that their material does not include anything prohibited under law or anything that may harm investors' interests, Sebi suggested in its consultation paper. **-PTI**

Secure digital world

The fifth edition of the India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF-2025) concluded on Friday after two days of discussions at the India Habitat Centre and the India International Centre here in the national capital.

The gathering, attended by representatives from central ministries, technology companies, civil society organisations, universities, and international bodies, deliberated on how to nurture an open, trusted, and inclusive internet ecosystem in India.

Guided by the theme "Advancing Internet Governance for an Inclusive and Sustainable Viksit Bharat", the forum examined three sub-themes: Inclusive Digital Future, Digital Infrastructure for Resilient and Sustainable Growth and AI for People, Planet and Progress. **-ANI**

HEALTH TIP: Regular screenings in your 40s are vital—monitor symptoms, perform self-checks, and follow recommended mammogram and wellness tests

Aloe vera gel cools, soothes shoe bites, reduces redness, heals skin faster, and prevents scars effectively

BangaloreMirror | 13
Saturday, November 29, 2025
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/thebangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

WHY YOUR DOG STILL HIDES ITS TREASURE

Your dog is not a doomsday prepper, here's why they hide food and toys

Have you ever seen a dog focused on nuzzling their expensive treat under a blanket, behind a couch cushion, or into a freshly dug hole in the backyard? You might think they are behaving like a paranoid doomsday prepper, but dogs aren't stockpiling their food due to anxiety about impending disaster.

Instead, they're revealing how their evolutionary past still shapes modern behaviours. This forward-thinking strategy offers us a unique window into how we can help them live well.

Why do dogs cache food, treats and toys?

You might have heard of "caching", the scientific term for storing food in hidden places for later use. This behaviour is widespread across the animal kingdom, from squirrels to crows and wolves.

Caching behaviour generally falls into one of two categories.

One is known as larder hoarding – think of a squirrel stashing nuts in just one or two places to draw from as they get through a long winter.

The other is known as scatter hoarding, where animals make smaller caches of surplus food in many different locations, reducing the chance of losing everything to a competitor or going hungry in lean seasons. It's mostly seen in wild canids such as foxes and wolves.

This behaviour in modern dogs is an instinctual remnant. It reflects the competitive feeding patterns of their ancestors who hunted for survival, where securing food was unpredictable but crucial.

Dogs appear to rely on a combination of scent and observational spatial memory to remember where they have cached special items, such as food, treats and toys.

Is my dog worried I won't feed it next week?

When we see today's household dogs taking their toys to quiet places to hide them, nosing blankets to cover treats, or digging a hole for a bone in the backyard, they aren't consciously worried they won't be fed again.

This behaviour is driven by an inherited survival mechanism. It shouldn't be considered evidence they anticipate being hungry in the future.

However, dogs who have experienced food scarcity or stress, such as displaced dogs that have been stray, may cache more as a coping mechanism shaped by that experience.

It might also be more commonly seen in breeds selected for their hunting-type behaviours, such as terriers and hounds.

Is this behaviour a problem?

If you're finding that caching is a problem behaviour in your home, it's worth considering the underlying reason.

Our dogs' behaviour is how they communicate with us, and behaviour we perceive as problematic (such as barking, digging and jumping up) is often just normal dog behaviour that doesn't suit us at that moment.

When we invite dogs into our homes to live with us, we need to provide suitable outlets for their natural behaviours. These include daily physical activity, social connection they enjoy, and regular mental stimulation.

Snuffle mats and slow-feeding interactive puzzle toys can be a terrific way to provide them with foraging-based behavioural interaction. These let you hide your dog's food or treats in folds of fabric, compartments or textured surfaces, so the dog needs to actively "problem-solve" to get to their goal.

This can keep dogs happily engaged, reducing boredom and anxiety. It might also help to satiate the same natural behaviour itch that drives them to dig in the backyard.

If you are experiencing problems with dogs growling or defending their food (a behaviour known as resource guarding) from other dogs or people in the home, you might need to explore strategies to keep everyone safe.

This could include making sure there are more toys or chews available than there are dogs in the environment to reduce any perceived competition. It could also mean giving multiple dogs their own area to eat while separated by a physical barrier (for example, using a door or toddler gate to keep them apart).

If you're concerned about your dog's caching behaviours, consult your local vet or ask them to connect you to a professional with suitable animal behaviour expertise.

Next time you see your dog carefully stashing that special item, you can relax, knowing they aren't worried about an impending apocalypse or protesting against your choice of treat flavour. They are engaging in normal, natural behaviour that speaks to their wild past.

By Mia Cobb, The University of Melbourne, PTI The Conversation

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study details independent role of Alzheimer's gene in causing delirium

Risk of delirium, a state of confusion commonly experienced by hospitalised patients, has been independently, directly linked to a gene well-known to contribute towards Alzheimer's disease, according to an analysis of more than a million people from across the UK, Finland and the US.

Gene "APOE" is known to make a protein that helps carry cholesterol and other fats in the blood. Having the gene variant "APOE e4" is said to increase one's risk of developing the ageing-related Alzheimer's disease, in which thought processes and decision-making are steadily impacted over time.

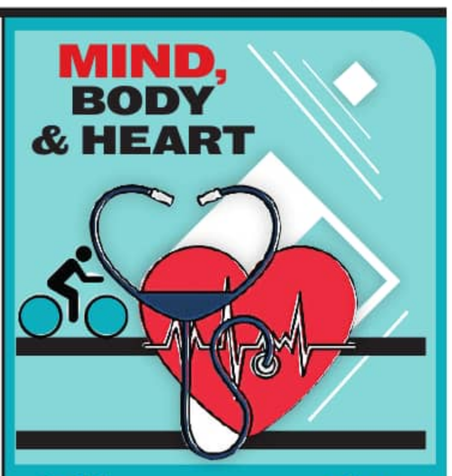
However, the gene has a distinct, direct role to play in causing delirium, and one's risk of experiencing delirium cannot be solely explained by the gene's link to Alzheimer's disease, researchers from the University of Edinburgh said.

Findings published in the journal Nature Ageing show that the effects of the APOE gene on risk of delirium held despite adjusting for dementia, thereby providing strong evidence that the gene contributes to the risk in people without dementia.

The overlap between genetic risks of delirium and Alzheimer's disease may help explain why delirium so often precedes or accelerates cognitive decline, the researchers said. "The study provides the strongest evidence to date that delirium has a genetic component. Our next step is to understand how DNA modifications and changes in gene expression in brain cells can lead to delirium," said co-author of the study, Vasilis Raptis from the University of Edinburgh.

The researchers "conducted a

genetic meta-analysis on delirium using multi-ancestry data from the UK Biobank, FinnGen, All of Us Research Program and Michigan Genomics Initiative cohorts, yielding the Apolipoprotein E (APOE) gene as a strong delirium risk factor independently of dementia." —PTI



All you need to know about...

Warm sips

When the temperature drops, most people reach for a steaming cup of coffee—but not everyone wants the jitters, acidity, or sleepless nights that often follow. Fortunately, there are plenty of warm, comforting teas that offer the same cosy feeling without overstimulating your system. These caffeine-free and low-caffeine brews soothe your senses, support your wellness and are perfect for sipping throughout the day or night. From calming floral infusions to naturally warming spices, here are six teas that can warm you up even better than coffee.

1. Ginger Tea
Ginger tea delivers natural heat and a spicy kick, making it ideal for cold days. Rich in gingerol, it supports digestion, immunity and relaxation—perfect for late evenings.

2. Chamomile Tea
Chamomile is prized for its calming effects. It gently eases stress, supports sleep and offers instant warmth without any bitterness or caffeine.

3. Cinnamon Tea
Naturally sweet and aromatic, cinnamon tea boosts circulation and provides anti-inflammatory benefits. It's a cosy, caffeine-free alternative for mornings or nights.

4. Peppermint Tea
Peppermint offers a refreshing yet soothing warmth. It helps digestion, reduces bloating and provides a crisp aroma that feels energising without overstimulating.

5. Lemongrass Tea
Light and citrusy, lemongrass tea relaxes the mind, supports digestion and encourages better sleep. It's perfect for both slow mornings and calming evenings.

6. Lavender Tea
Lavender tea brings soft warmth with its iconic floral scent, easing anxiety and promoting deep rest—an ideal bedtime companion.—**Femina**

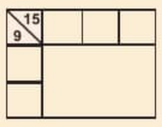
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

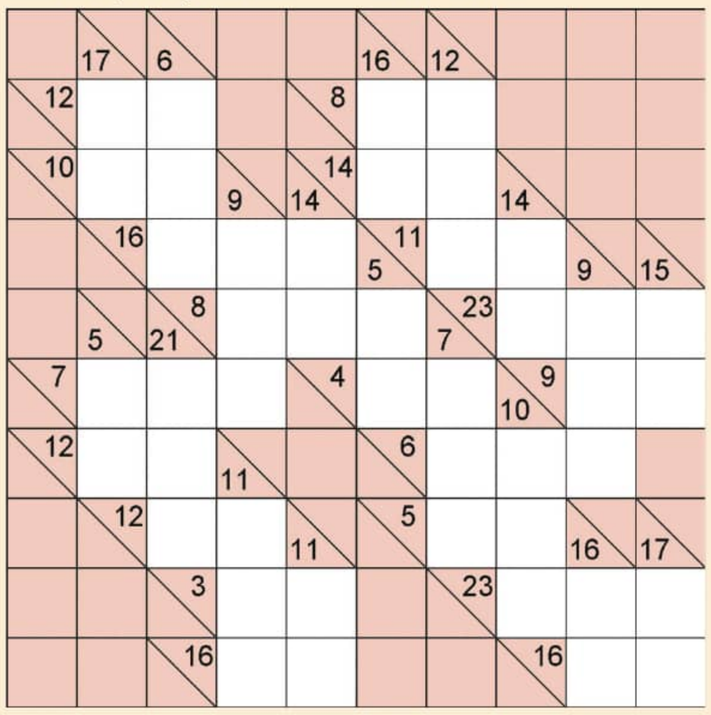
$\sqrt{\{(5^3 \times 7^5) / (5^{-1} \times 7^3)\} \times \{(5^4 \times 7^{-1}) / (7^{-1} \times 5^5)\}} = ?$

Kakuro

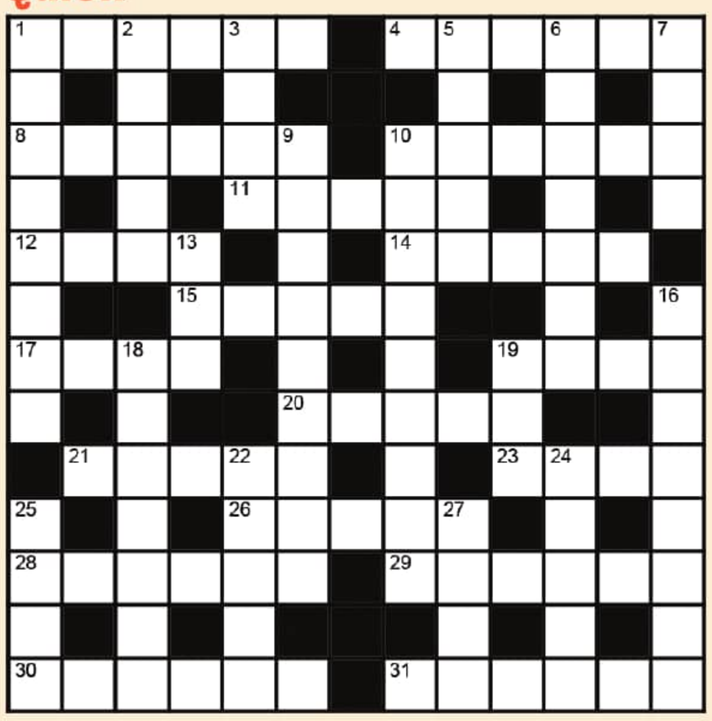
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Satisfies thirst (6)
4 Spain and Portugal (6)
8 Closer (6)
10 Magistrates (6)
11 Showed the movie or play again, in a way? (2-3)
12 Slurry (4)
14 ____ truly : one way to end an official letter? (5)
15 Serious stage play (5)
17 Middle-East country with Baghdad as its capital (4)
19 __ __ example (e.g.) (2,2)
20 La __: Milan opera house (5)
21 A Persian (5)
23 Swimming venue (4)
26 __ ___ shape : in poor condition? (2,3)
28 A person of not so good a character? (3,3)
29 Decayed or putrefied (6)
30 A score (6)
31 Move upward (6)

DOWN

1 Summary (8)
2 ____ of : benefit from? (5)
3 Water-jug (4)
5 Footballer __ Fernandes (5)
6 Thinks of or considers (7)
7 Dog breed: Lhasa ____ (4)
9 Backsliding (9)
10 Area home to the City Central Library (9)
13 At once, in short (3)
16 Considered as part of something (8)
18 Shorten (7)
19 You in Urdu (3)
22 Period of darkness (5)
24 __ __ up and up : legal (2,3)
25 Help a felon (4)
27 Carries out (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS U

YCPXY FGPCXIAJ. FGP EQGM ZGCI YKDQ FGP YKWQE FGP TG.

Linemaro

Did you die recently? Cause girl, you look like an angel to me

Mindchow

I'd rather learn to dance in the rain,than worry if I have an umbrella for the rest of my life

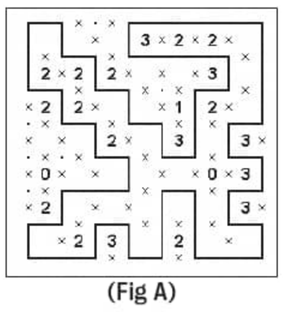
Joke of the day

What did the duck say when he bought lipstick?Put it on my bill

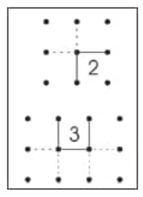
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

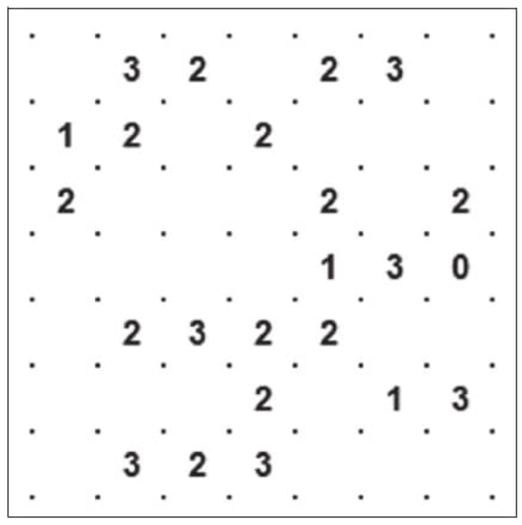


(Fig B) Not Allowed

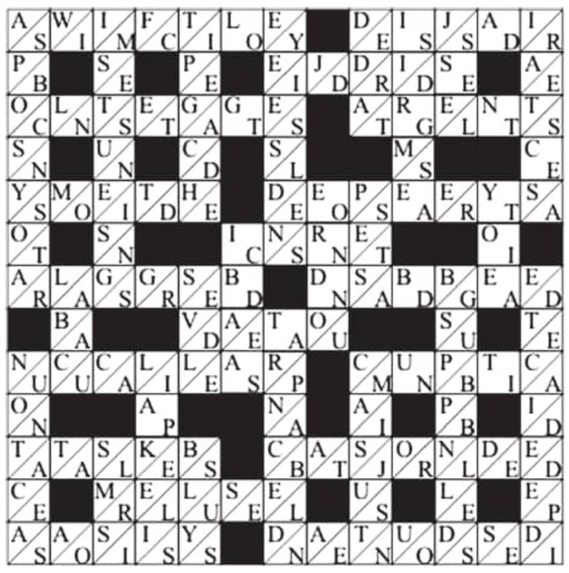
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



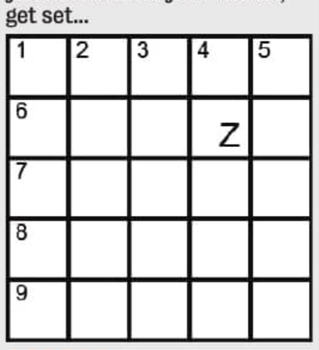
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

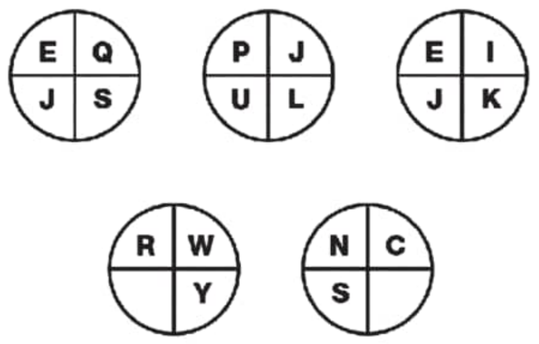
1 Atman; 6 Ma Zea; 7 No inn; 8 In tin; 9 Accho

DOWN

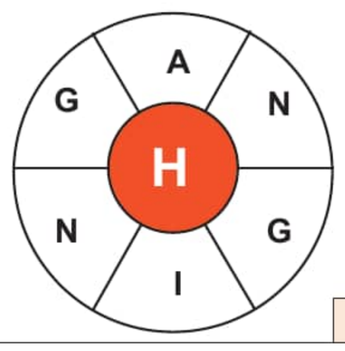
1 Amnic; 2 Naomi; 3 An nan; 4 I a coz; 5 He TNT

Mensapuzzle

Which two letters will complete this puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

9								1
7	6		8	5	1		3	9
			4		6			
		8	9		5	3		
	3						5	
		7	6		8	4		
			1		2			
1	5		7	6	3		2	4
2								7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 9

1 4 5 9

Medium

= 27

3 5 5 9

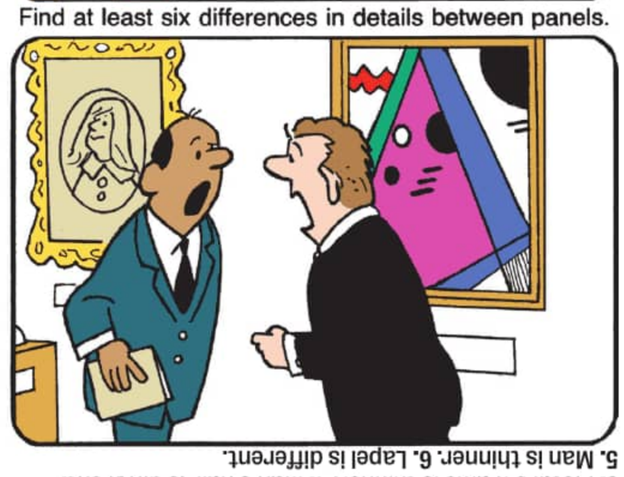
Hard

= 4

1 2 7 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



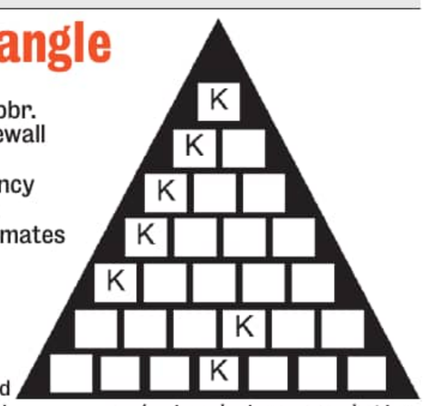
Differences: 1. Arm is lower. 2. Finger is moved. 3. Picture frame is thinner. 4. Man's hair is different. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Lapel is different.

Riddler

In each sentence the name of a tree is hidden. Can you find them all? 1. I will owe you a favor if you drive me to the airport. 2. I am afraid of going up in elevators. 3. Drinking cocoa keeps me warm on long winter nights. 4. I hope the map leads us to buried treasure.

Alpha triangle

1 1000
2 Kinetic energy, abbr.
3 Tennis great Rosewall
4 Bingo-like game
5 Norwegian currency
6 A horse chestnut
7 Considers or estimates

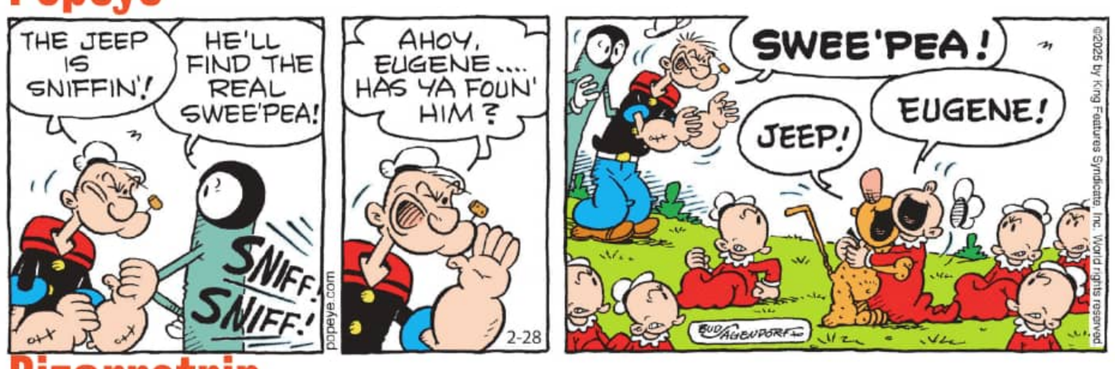


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

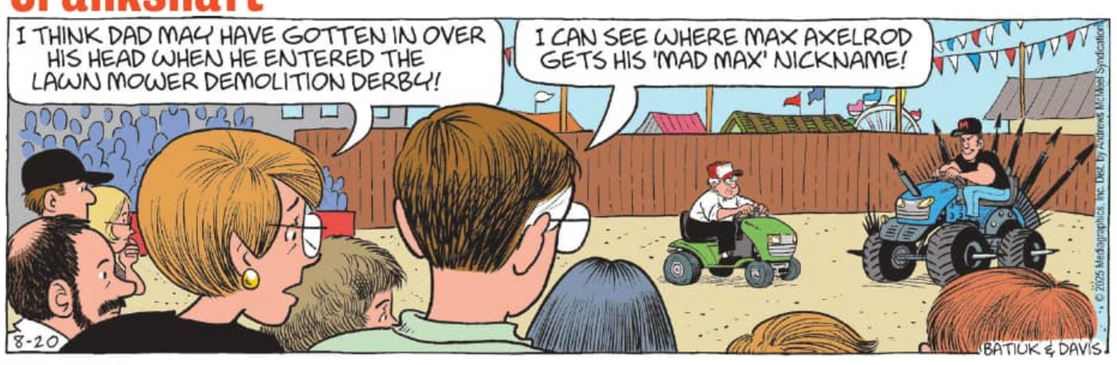
BIZARRO.COM
Dist. by King Features ©2025 Bizarro Studios
Since our last meeting, I've finally managed to kick my placebo habit.
FANTASY SUPPORT GROUP
Wayno & Piraro 8-20-25

Diamond Lil

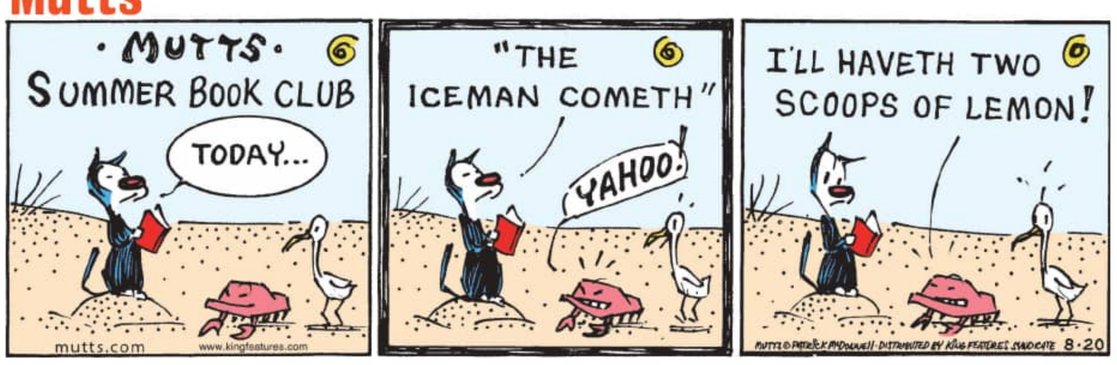
Hart of the city

THUS WITH A KISS... I DIE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
AHCHOOOO!
OH MY GOD?!
TOBY SNEEZED IN MY OPEN MOUTH!!
THAT'S KIND OF WHAT KISSING IS!

Crankshaft


I THINK DAD MAY HAVE GOTTEN IN OVER HIS HEAD WHEN HE ENTERED THE LAWN MOWER DEMOLITION DERBY!
I CAN SEE WHERE MAX AXELROD GETS HIS 'MAD MAX' NICKNAME!
BATIUK & DAVIS
8-20

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Career fulfilment is found in work that serves a higher purpose; explore teaching or non-profit roles. Finances improve significantly through unexpected donations or thoughtful gifts. Love is empathetic and spiritual, oering deep, unwavering emotional support. Family life is harmonious, centring on shared healing and compassionate, gentle care.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Reflect deeply today. Understanding past mistakes helps you heal and grow stronger. Your clarity and optimism empower meaningful change, guiding you toward better choices and renewed emotional balance.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Relationships flourish with clear communication and harmony. Singles should pause the search for love, focusing instead on self-fulfilment and inner peace; true happiness begins with appreciating your own wholeness first.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Take time to introspect. Learning from past missteps brings clarity and growth. A positive mindset transforms reflection into progress, empowering wiser choices and renewed motivation to move forward.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Someone captivating may cross your path today. Instead of waiting, take initiative; confidence attracts positive results. Effort and openness lead to meaningful connections and exciting emotional or personal opportunities.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Work responsibilities may strain relationships, Leo. Prioritise balance by planning carefully. Dedicate time to loved ones while maintaining productivity, harmonising both worlds ensures peace, fulfilment, and emotional stability.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Trust builds stronger love. Avoid unnecessary doubts or imagined fears. Your partner's intentions are sincere; focus on gratitude and reassurance to create lasting emotional harmony and deeper connection.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Confidence surges today. Step boldly beyond comfort zones and embrace new challenges. Trying unfamiliar experiences boosts growth, joy, and self-trust; your renewed courage brings exciting, fulfilling outcomes.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

A familiar face may reappear unexpectedly. Before reacting, reflect calmly on what you truly desire. Consider long-term implications carefully; wisdom and patience ensure your decision aligns with happiness.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Busy yet inspired; ideas flow abundantly. Capture each thought before it fades. Though action may wait, preparation now ensures creative success and meaningful progress when the timing aligns.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Conflicts with your partner require space and reflection. Focus on individual goals before reuniting emotionally. Growth through independence strengthens understanding and lays groundwork for healthier love ahead.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

Analyse challenges logically today. Detaching emotions offers clarity and insight. Balanced reasoning transforms communication, helping you connect authentically and approach new interactions with greater confidence and calm.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Past experiences resurface, stirring mixed emotions. Reflect without judgement; each lesson shaped your wisdom. Embrace acceptance and gratitude, transforming reflection into strength as you move confidently toward new beginnings.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Saakshi, Bengaluru

Jyothika, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

= >√{5^3-(-1) x 7^(5-3)} x {5^(4-5) x 7^-1-(-1)}
= >√{(5^4 x 7^2)} x {(5^-1)(7^0)}
= (5^2)(7) x (7^0)(5^-1)
= (5^1) x (7^1) = 35

RIDDLER

1. Willow, 2. Pine, 3. Oak & 4. Maple

QUOTE UNCODE

Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do.

FAST FIVE

M	A	N	A	T
A	M	A	Z	E
N	I	N	O	N
I	N	N	I	T
C	O	A	C	H

STRIKE OUT

S	W	I	F	T	L	Y	■	E	S	S	A	R
P	S	■	E	■	I	D	R	I	S	■	A	■
O	N	S	T	A	G	E	■	A	G	E	N	T
N	■	U	■	C	■	L	■	M	■	■	E	■
S	M	I	T	H	■	D	E	P	A	R	T	S
■	■	N	■	I	S	N	T	■	O	■	■	■
R	A	G	G	E	D	■	D	A	B	B	E	D
O	■	O	■	■	■	T	O	■	■	■	■	E
N	U	■	C	L	E	A	R	■	C	U	B	I	C
■	B	■	■	■	V	E	T	O	■	■	U	■	E
T	A	L	K	S	■	C	A	J	O	L	E	D	■
E	■	M	E	L	E	■	E	■	U	■	E	■	E
S	A	S	S	Y	■	D	E	N	U	D	E	D	■

QUICK

T	W	E	N	T	Y	■	A	S	C	E	N	D	■	■
E	■	G	■	H	■	■	■	E	■	H	■	E	■	■
B	A	D	E	G	G	■	R	O	T	T	E	D	■	■
A	■	I	■	I	N	B	A	D	■	N	■	U	■	■
I	■	R	A	N	I	■	G	■	P	O	O	L	■	■
S	■	B	■	■	S	C	A	L	A	■	■	C	■	■
I	R	A	O	■	P	■	N	■	A	S	A	N	■	■
S	■	■	D	R	A	M	A	■	■	D	■	I	■	■
P	U	L	P	■	L	■	Y	O	U	R	S	■	■	■
O	■	I	■	R	E	R	A	N	■	A	■	O	■	■
N	E	A	R	E	R	■	J	U	D	G	E	S	■	■
Y	■	V	■	W	■	■	■	R	■	E	■	P	■	■
S	L	A	K	E	S	■	I	B	E	R	I	A	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

W & E. In each circle, add 5 to the value of the top left letter to give the bottom left letter, and then add 2 to the top right to give the bottom right.

BULL'S EYE

hang, HANGING, nigh

SUDOKU

9	8	5	3	2	7	6	4	1
7	6	4	8	5	1	2	3	9
3	1	2	4	9	6	7	8	5
4	2	8	9	1	5	3	7	6
6	3	1	2	7	4	9	5	8
5	9	7	6	3	8	4	1	2
8	7	6	1	4	2	5	9	3
1	5	9	7	6	3	8	2	4
2	4	3	5	8	9	1	6	7

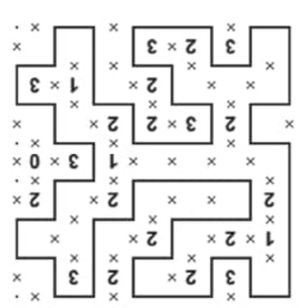
ALPHA TRIANGLE

K, KE, Ken, Keno, Krone, Conker, Reckons.

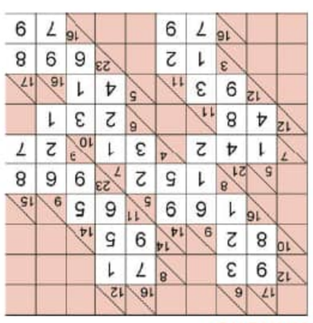
GO FIGURE

Easy
9 + 4–5 + 1 = 9
Medium
3–5 + 5 x 9 = 27
Hard
2 + 9 x 1–7 = 4

LOOP



KAKURO

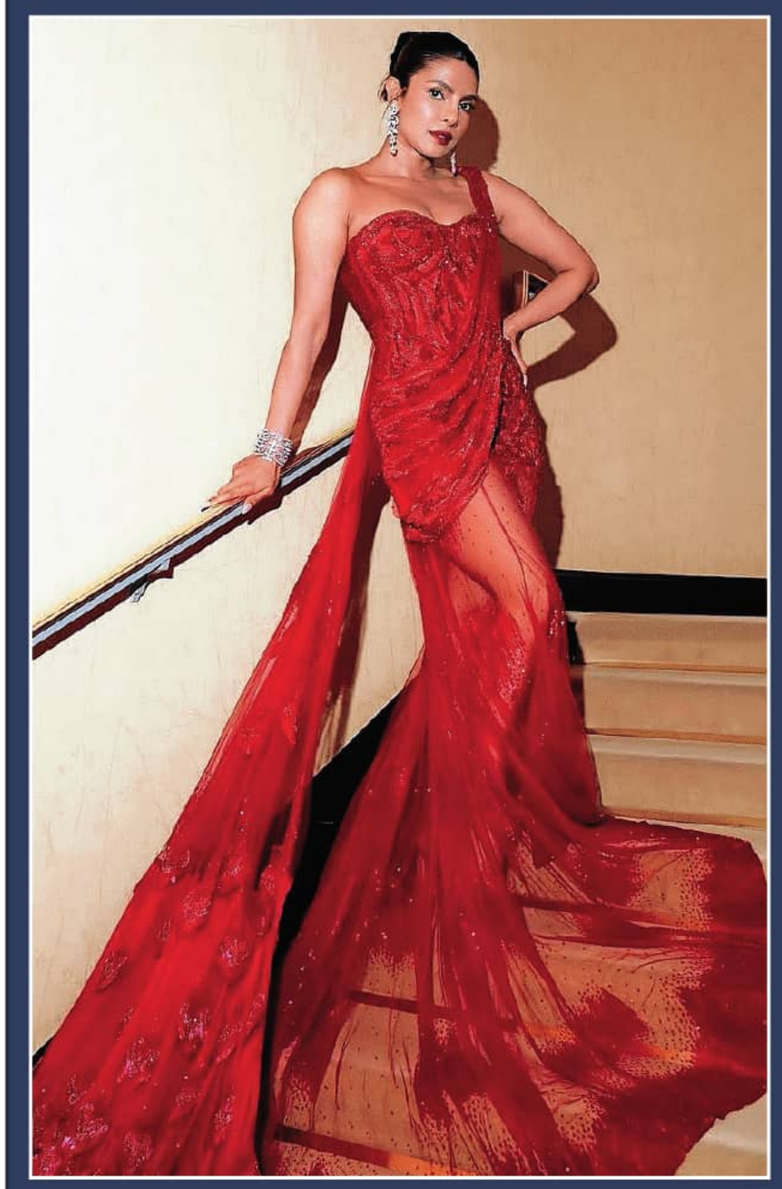


Volume No 18, Issue No 048 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore–560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon–responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Meet cute
Bollywood couple Siddharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani shared a photograph of their newborn and revealed that they had named her Saraayah

No blueprint for success

PC reveals how she figured her way through Hollywood



Priyanka Chopra Jonas has been one of the most recognised and influential Indian stars globally, but her rise in Hollywood did not have a roadmap. Recently, the actress opened up about how it was only trial, error and the willingness to learn as she went along to the West.

In a conversation with IANS, the 'Varanasi' actor admitted that despite being hailed as a trailblazer, she did not always know how to preserve her sense of identity while constantly adapting for international audiences. "I don't know if I did," she said.

Priyanka said she entered global entertainment without many Indian examples to follow, which meant she had to figure things out independently. "I think I don't know everything. I don't claim to know everything. I am learning by myself. There are very few examples, people who had come before me in navigating international waters from India, whose footprints I followed," she shared.

Speaking about her years of transition between Bollywood and Hollywood, Priyanka said her evolution has been full of unpredictability. "It was just trial and error. I made mistakes and some were good, some were bad, and that's what happens when you're starting all over again and I think that's okay," she said.

According to her, the real challenge wasn't the failure itself, but learning to forgive herself when things didn't go as planned.

Being a global public figure it also comes with pressure. Priyanka revealed that her emotional steadiness comes from her inner circle. For her, support isn't about having many people, it's about having the right ones. **—ETimes**

Hugh Grant only went into acting 'to be famous, make a lot of money'

English star Hugh Grant shocked his "Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves" co-star Justice Smith when he said he only went into acting "to be famous and make a lot of money".

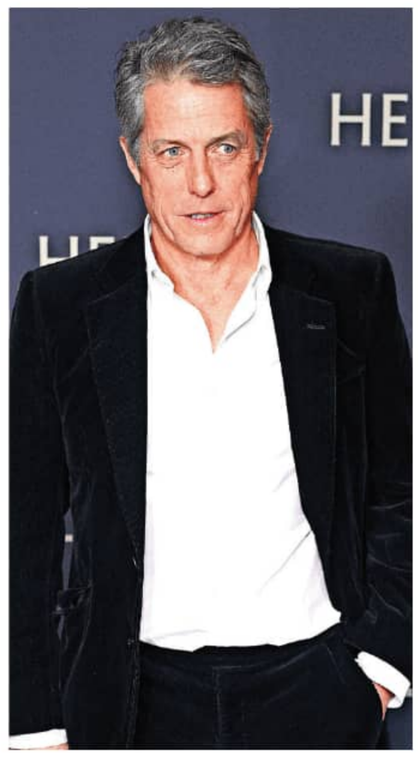
The actor shocked Smith with his candid confession and the 30-year-old star is still unsure whether or not he was joking.

During an appearance on the What Are We Even Doing? podcast host Kyle MacLachlan asked Smith if he had got along with Grant during filming, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

He replied: "I did. Oh, I love Hugh. When I worked with him, I was like, 'Hugh, you know, do you still love what you do? Do you still love this?' And he was just like, 'No.' He said, 'I've never loved it.' He's like, 'I just wanted to be famous and make a lot of money.' And I said, 'Really?' He said, 'Yeah.'

"He is so funny. And he's like, 'I've always hated the acting part of it.' And I was like, 'Oh.' But he said it with such sincerity."

Smith was so "stuck" on the conversation, he brought it up with Rosamund Pike while filming "Now You See Me: Now You Don't" to get her take on whether Grant was being serious



or "just British".

He recalled: "She's like, 'No, I'm pretty sure he's just British.' I'm like, 'Are you sure?' I think 'cause it stuck with me. I was like, 'Oh, I guess you can be a really good actor and just want to like just do it for the fame and money.'"

Both host and his guest agreed the 62-year-old star is a "perfectionist" and pushes himself hard with his work, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

— IANS

Decent laugh riot

BANK OF BHAGYALAKSHMI

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Abhishek Manjunath
- **ACTORS** Dheekshith Shetty, Brinda Acharya, Gopala Krishna Deshpande, Sruthi Hariharan
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 152 minutes

Director Abhishek Manjunath comes out with a comedy flick that provides the much-needed entertainment to the audiences, who were disappointed with Kannada movies released in the recent past. The director has selected a good script, cast and narrated the story in a compelling manner. Though the movie has a few dull moments, the audiences will come out of the theater happy after watching this movie.

The movie begins with Police Inspector Ramakrishna (Sadhu Kokila) trying to frighten local rowdies, including Kanaka (Dheekshith Shetty) and his associates. Kanaka also threatens the police inspector that he will try to get him suspended. Kanaka and his associates decide to rob a bank while politicians are busy readying for Assembly elections. Kanaka and his team enter the bank but their plan goes haywire. Kanaka tries to get close to Arpita (Brinda Acharya), an employee of the bank, who borrowed money from her colleague. Meanwhile, the police, led by Police Inspector Ajit (Vishwanath Mandalika), surround the bank. At this juncture, the bank's rolling shutter gets locked. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Kanaka and his team.

Dheekshith Shetty, as a leader of amateurish robbers who pronounces robbers as rubbers, is at his best. His dialogue delivery and gestures are good. Brinda Acharya shines in the dance sequence. Gopala Krishna Deshpande, Sruthi Hariharan, Sadhu Kokila provide good support. Vishwanath Mandalika, as a police inspector, has acted well.

Judah Sandhy's music and Abhishek Kasargod's cinematography add value to the movie.

It is worth a watch for all. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

Action drama that explores naxalism

OPERATION LONDON CAFÉ

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Sadagara Raghavendra
- **ACTORS** Kaveesh Shetty, Megha Shetty, Shivani Surve, Virat Madake, Ashwini Chavare, Arjun Kapikad
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 126 minutes

This movie revolves around a tale of a group of naxals in a village. Villagers are under pressure as the government wants to acquire around 400 acres of fertile land from 35 villages while the naxals try to convince them not to hand over their agricultural land to the government. Later the scene is shifted to a police station where police inspector (Ashwanth Ninasam) takes Savitri, who works at a taluk office, into custody for her alleged involvement in a sex racket. Unable to cope with embarrassment, her parents end their lives. The Naxals team led by Shaura Satyadev (Kaveesh Shetty) eliminates the tahsildar for pressuring the police inspector to register a false case against Savitri. Meanwhile, Bhavya (Megha Shetty), a village belle, falls in love with Shaurya. Kanti, a naxal, opposes it. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Shaurya and Bhavya.

Though the movie is set against Naxalism, it does not glorify it. The director has tried to convey a message to society, especially misguided youths on how naxals indulge in violence and kill people ruthlessly. Megha Shetty, who plays the female lead, has done a good job. Her dialogue delivery and gestures are superb. Kaveesh Shetty has acted well. He looks like an introvert throughout the movie. Shivani Surve and Ashwini Chavare are good support.

However, a few scenes, especially the scene where the female lead meets the hero in a forest without any hurdles while the police struggle to trace naxals and another scene where naxals are shown using modern vehicles, are far from convincing.

The climax of the movie indicates there is going to be a prequel for this movie.

It is worth a watch, especially if you want to take a close look at naxalism.

—Y Maheswara Reddy